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Safwan Tal retires

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Saturday approved the retirement of the director general of the antiquities department, Safwan Al Tal. The Council of Ministers also approved dissolving the Eidoun municipal council and set up a committee to replace it till a new council is elected. The committee will be headed by Irbid Finance Department Director Hamdan Al Jamal. The Council of Ministers also set up a delegation to represent Jordan at the meetings of the Higher Technical Committee of the Arab League and Construction Ministers Council to be held in Cairo Aug. 21-23. The delegation will be headed by Planning Director of the Telecommunications Corporation Shawkat Al Momani.

Hizbollah army battle in south

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (AP) — Lebanese troops Saturday arrested two guerrillas and demanded the surrender of six others after a shootout in South Lebanon, police said. The firefight erupted when the army stepped in to put down a quarrel between Hizbollah and its main Shiite rival, the more secular-oriented Amal backed by Syria, in which one Amal militiaman suffered a knife wound, a police statement said. Hizbollah men fired on the troops in the village of Zibidine near the market town of Nabatiyeh with automatic rifles and the soldiers returned fire, according to the police report. It said soldiers apprehended two Hizbollah militants involved in the shooting, but six others escaped into nearby ravines. The army command warned Hizbollah's leadership to hand them over quickly, or else they will be taken by force.

Kuwait ready to recognise Israel

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait's ambassador to Washington was quoted Saturday as saying nothing should stop his country from recognising Israel after the issues of occupied Arab land and Palestinian rights are settled. "There are no religious obstacles that would stop Kuwait from recognising Israel," Ambassador Mohammad Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah was quoted as telling the newspaper Al Watan. "If the issues of the occupation of land and the rights of Palestinian people are dealt with, there should be nothing to stop the Arab League from issuing a decision that would allow the Arab countries to recognise Israel," Sheikh Mohammad, a member of Kuwait's Royal family, was quoted as saying. "We hope that all countries of the area will live in peace and security, including Israel."

Killed in fresh Kabul battles

KABUL (R) — Heavy fighting erupted in the Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday, killing eight people and injuring 25, most of them civilians, hospitals and military sources said. Witnesses said forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his opponents led by Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and the northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum exchanged heavy artillery and rocket fire for a few hours since early morning. Mr. Rabbani's warplanes bombed Mr. Hekmatyar's headquarters south of Kabul and three other opposition positions, a spokesman for the president said. "The targets were mainly supply routes and military bases," he added. He said forces loyal to Mr. Rabbani repulsed a ground offensive by the opposition on positions around Tapae Marajan, a strategic hill captured by Mr. Rabbani's forces last month. But a spokesman for Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami party in neighbouring Pakistan said his party's fighters had recaptured Tapae Marajan.

Cabinet sees King's meeting with Rabin as 'historic'

Jordan expects Israel to deliver on its promises to return territory and water, Anani says

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Council of Ministers Saturday described as "historically significant" the meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin scheduled for July 25 in Washington D.C. The Cabinet, in its regular Saturday session, saw the summit as "an opportunity to push the Middle East peace process forward" after being briefed by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and the head of the Jordanian delegation to Middle East peace negotiations and ambassador to the U.S., Fayez Tarawneh.

In a press conference at the end of the meeting, Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said that Jordan expects Israel to deliver on substantive issues in bilateral negotiations in return for the meeting between His Majesty and Mr. Rabin.

Dr. Anani also said that the United States administration has committed itself to assisting Jordan economically and militarily. "Israel has promised to deliver," Dr. Anani told a press conference, when asked what Jordan will get in return for the King's meeting with Mr. Rabin.

But Dr. Anani and Dr. Tarawneh rejected suggestions that write-off of the Kingdom's debts to the U.S. and American military aid were the "price" for King Hussein's decision to meet with Mr. Rabin.

Dr. Anani and ambassador Tarawneh, addressing the joint press conference, said it was in the interest of the Arab-Israeli peace process that Jordan enjoy security in all aspects — internal as well as external and social and economic security.

As such, Dr. Anani and Dr. Tarawneh said it was not a deal under which the U.S. would provide assistance to Jordan for a meeting between the King and Mr. Rabin.

"This is not a bargaining here, I give you this, you give me this," Dr. Tarawneh said in reply to a question. "This is just putting the bare facts that the stability of Jordan is very important to the process, and this is part of the comprehensiveness."

"Instability in Jordan, whether it is economic or security, will spill over in the whole area and the exercise will fail... this is a fact that the central position of Jordan in the peace process and the geopolitics of the area make it necessary that Jordan should be stable in economic security. This is not a price; it's part of the process."

King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan have repeatedly said that a comprehensive and just peace settlement should essentially mean improved living standards for the people of the region and the fruits of peace felt by the man on the street.

Dr. Anani noted U.S. President Bill Clinton had committed himself to helping Jordan economically either in the form of debt or in the

form of certain other types of aid during the June visit of King Hussein to Washington.

"President Clinton agreed with His Majesty that on the issue of debt relief that heads of state would agree and consult in order to agree on the proper timing to address the legislative authority in the U.S. on this particular issue," the information minister said.

The timing of the American help to Jordan is not determined, but the Kingdom is assured that it would be forthcoming, he added.

"It is not fit for fat, or quid pro quo; it is not like that," Dr. Anani said. "Relations between states do not treat things like that."

The idea of Washington extending debt relief and military aid to Jordan was raised more than one year ago, again during a visit to Washington by King Hussein. Since then various reports have indicated that one of the means the Clinton administration would adopt to help the Kingdom was a full or partial write-off of the Kingdom's government debts to Washington.

Such a move requires congressional approval and hence the significance of the King's address to a joint session of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on July 25, when the Monarch will also meet with Mr. Rabin.

Asked at Saturday's press conference why Jordan felt it needed military equipment at a time when it is moving towards peace with Israel, Dr. Anani pointed out that a peace-seeker does not have

to be weak while making peace.

He said Jordan had not drawn up a "shopping list" of its requirements; nor was it seeking specific security guarantees from the U.S.

"We are seeking to enhance Jordan's ability to maintain its own security," Dr. Anani said. "Jordan's concept of security means comprehensive security. It is not only military, arms, but we are also talking about social and economic security that we need to enhance."

"The fragmentation of the peace process by giving more weight to the other side at the expense of the other might be a cause for security," he said. "We believe that the international community, the U.S., have also certain liabilities and responsibilities because of their deep interest in this part of the world."

Dr. Tarawneh, who addressed reporters alongside Dr. Anani, explained that while the U.S. administration "represented by the president has announced its commitment vis-a-vis debt relief — the administration is not the decision maker."

Dr. Tarawneh said that the "decision maker in the U.S. is the congress because there is a legislative process and the administration can only recommend to the congress to pass a certain legislation."

He said that the fact that His Majesty's schedule includes an appointment to address a joint session of Congress "has political ramifications."

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His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday addresses Armed Forces officers in the south (Armed Forces photo)

Jordan has the right to defend its rights — King

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is seeking a just and comprehensive peace and it is Jordan's right to defend its rights by all means, His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday.

Speaking to Armed Forces officers during an inspection visit to the military headquarters in southern Jordan, the King said that his acceptance of an invitation to go to Washington and meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was in fulfillment of national duty.

"When a Jordanian meets with an Israeli the Jordanian will be representing the Kingdom while the Israeli will be representing the state of Israel," King Hussein said. "We are responsible for the Kingdom in the present and the future. As to myself I am ready to sacrifice myself for you all for the homeland," King Hussein said.

"Men should not fear an encounter with men and we

never feared anyone in the past and will never fear anyone in the future. Our right is known to all and we will defend it and regain it while we seek to achieve a just and lasting peace acceptable to all."

The King said:

"There might be some people who could say that we fear of being swallowed up by others. But we are not an easy prey. In the 1940s there was a big difference between us and Israel considering that its citizens were Europeans who had gained different experiences and were more qualified... But, thank God, the men of this country have great potential and their past achievements are of the level that enables them to deal with any challenge and to deal with any new situation with efficiency."

"Therefore this country is not easy prey for anyone. On the contrary, if the opportu-

nities are available and the picture changes, we would be able to achieve a great deal as we did in the past when we achieved something tantamount to miracles through our steadfastness and our diligence. If there are better opportunities, I believe that we will march forth and achieve something to make us all satisfied and reassured about the nation's present and future and that of the coming generations."

With reference to the national congress that endorsed the National Charter under the umbrella of the Constitution, the King said "we met at the national level and with the participation of representatives of all sectors and discussed the given situation and we took a unanimous decision because this is a democratic country and the Jordanian citizens are free to

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Clinton pledges comprehensive peace to Assad; Syrian media cool to Peres

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
using agency dispatches

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton has assured Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad that the U.S. wants a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, an official Syrian spokesman said Saturday.

The spokesman, quoted by the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA), said the assurance that the U.S. "is committed to comprehensive peace" in the Middle East was made during a telephone call that Mr. Clinton made to President Assad on Friday.

In Washington, Mr. Clinton said Friday he had talked with Mr. Assad and emphasized that the U.S. was indeed seeking a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The president also informed Mr. Assad of the U.S. invitation to His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to meet in Washington on July 25.

Syria, which implicitly criticised Jordan's progress in negotiations with Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) peace deal with Israel, did not comment Saturday on the summit.

The Syrian official said talks between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Assad dealt with developments of the peace process and the tour of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region due to start on Sunday.

There was no clear indication on how Damascus

viewed the American assurance and whether it was enough to produce a breakthrough in the stalled Israeli-Syrian track of peace negotiations. It was also not clear how the Syrian leadership viewed a statement by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres endorsing Syria's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

The statement was widely seen as paving the way for advancing the Syrian-Israeli peace talks ahead of Mr. Christopher's visit.

However, official Syrian media reacted coolly to the comment, saying Mr. Peres was not stating any new position.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was in touch with Mr. Assad over the phone,

Egyptian media reported, adding the two men discussed the "latest developments" in the peace process.

Amr Mosa, the Egyptian foreign minister, welcomed Mr. Peres' comments as a "step in the right direction" and expressed hope that the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations would make progress.

In his comments over the weekend, Mr. Peres said Israel had "recognised Syrian sovereignty on the Golan time after time," and that Syria had not accepted a deal in the 70s under which Israel would have returned the strategic plateau to Syria as part of a peace agreement.

In Amman, Information

(Continued on page 12)

Crown Prince urges Jordanians to look closely at peace agenda

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday urged the Jordanian people to examine the Jordanian-Israeli agenda with a view to better understanding its details, noting that the agenda constitutes a project for enabling the Kingdom to regain its sovereignty over its usurped territory.

Speaking to reporters after chairing a meeting of the Jordanian side to the joint Jordanian-Israeli working group on water, energy and the environment which is due to convene in Wadi Araba on Monday, the Crown Prince said the Kingdom believes there can be no peace without the active participation of all the concerned parties in the negotiations.

The Prince said contacts among Arab countries were going on at the highest levels and within the framework of contacts between the U.S. administration and Damascus on the one hand and the continued dialogue with the Palestinians on the other.

Prince Hassan said Jordan expects the world community and the United States to admit that Jordan has shouldered a heavy burden over the past decades resulting from the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Stressing that Jordan does not accept a situation where it merely reacts to events, the Crown Prince said the Kingdom would take initiatives in search for peace as long as the United States and various other international parties are ready and willing to recognise the Kingdom's status and role in trying to regain its sovereignty over its lost territory.

The Crown Prince said the meeting in Washington on July 25 between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the U.S. Congress "constitutes a clear recogni-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday chairs a meeting of Jordanian negotiators with Israel (photo by Yousef Al 'Alban)

tion that Washington recognises and appreciates the King's wisdom and courage."

The King a few days ago announced before the Cabinet and parliament members that he would not hesitate to meet the Israeli prime minister if such meeting was conducive to serving Jordan's interest and would lead to peace, the Crown Prince noted.

"I believe that the July 25 meeting in Washington is a very important event on the long and arduous road and continued endeavours by the concerned parties to reach a peace," he said.

Referring to the nature of the meeting he chaired in the presence of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the Crown Prince said he stressed to the members of the Jordanian delegation the overlapping of water, energy and environment issues like the interlinkage existing between security and borders issues.

Prince Hassan expected discussions with Israel over these outstanding issues to take a long time.

Following the meeting, Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said that the Crown Prince had stressed that the

Yemen declares Aden curfew to restore order

ADEN (Agencies) — The Yemeni government has imposed a 12-day curfew on the southern city of Aden from Saturday night to try to restore order in the war-ravaged city.

An Interior Ministry statement broadcast on Radio Aden said the curfew would allow security services to "arrest the instigators of disorder."

The curfew will operate from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., from this Saturday to Friday July 27 at midnight, it said.

Aden has been ransacked in an orgy of looting after northern troops captured it nine days ago, ending two months of civil war between forces loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and those of breakaway southern leader Ali Salem Al Beidh.

On Friday, the government announced a package of "immediate, urgent and dissuasive measures aimed at ending illegal actions targeting public and private property" in Aden.

It said it would disband all militias and private armed gangs, and said the city's security apparatus would be rebuilt "on new bases to enable the restoration of security and calm."

Mr. Saleh pledged Tuesday that life would return to normal in Aden "within 20 days."

Sanaa declared a curfew in all of Yemen's northern provinces during the civil war which broke out on May 5. Aden's population, which swelled to half a million from the pre-war 350,000, is still suffering water, food and petrol shortages. Offices, government institutions, homes

(Continued on page 12)

Arafat offers to buy land in Jerusalem

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat appealed to Palestinians in Arab East Jerusalem on Saturday not to sell their property to Israelis, saying the self-rule authority would buy it instead.

"I want to request from the people of Jerusalem to stop selling land and property in Jerusalem (to Israelis)," Mr. Arafat told a visiting Palestinian delegation from Jerusalem at the Palestine Hotel, his temporary headquarters.

Delegates complained to Mr. Arafat that Israel was confiscating their property in East Jerusalem or pressuring them to sell. Some said financial problems compelled them to sell.

Mr. Arafat said: "Whoever is in need of money, tell me, Abu Ammar (Arafat), come and buy, and I will solve his problems."

He said Palestinians had the right to claim East Jerusalem and the Palestinian flag would be raised in Jerusalem soon.

Mr. Arafat charged that Israel was violating its September self-rule deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) by trying to make geographic and demographic changes in Jerusalem and by closing the Holy City to Palestinians from outside.

(Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin promised to solve this problem of closing Jerusalem but I don't think our coming days will be milk and honey. Our path is very difficult and long," he said.

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MR. TAMIMI page No. 11

Red Cross says Aden chaos catastrophic

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The water situation in the southern Yemeni port city of Aden is deteriorating and a catastrophe is round the corner unless proper security is provided for supply trucks which offer intermittent help to residents, a senior Red Cross official said Saturday.

Jean-Francois Golay, representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who stayed in Yemen throughout the civil war that started on May 4 and ended two weeks ago, also said the all-Swiss agency was giving priority to extending medical assistance to hospitals and visiting detention centres.

Mr. Golay, who arrived here Friday from Yemen on his way to his Geneva headquarters, declined to provide any number for casualties in the nine-week war or the

detainees whom the ICRC visited during and after the conflict.

"It is very difficult to arrive at definite numbers because we have not visited all facilities," Mr. Golay told a press conference. But, he said, the ICRC was helping families trace their relatives in detention.

One of the main tasks undertaken by the ICRC in situations of conflict is helping establish communications between detainees and their families in addition to helping trace missing people.

Commenting on the situation in Aden, Mr. Golay said it would be several weeks before the central water station at Bir Nasser could be repaired and piped water supply could be restored to the city.

The central station, which collects water from surrounding areas and pumps it to city

residents, was damaged in shelling during the war. In addition, water pipes were also hit in shelling as well as damaged because of heavy military traffic over them.

As repair work continues at Bir Nasser, the ICRC is using trucks to ferry in water to the "most vulnerable people" in Aden from elsewhere, but well-organised distribution is simply not possible because of chaos, Mr. Golay told the press conference.

"Water is so scarce in Aden that as soon as a water truck appears it is overwhelmed by people who want water," leading to riots and posing serious risk to ICRC volunteers, Mr. Golay said. "The situation has to be addressed immediately."

"Despite the cessation of hostilities, the ICRC considers the population of Aden as more threatened than ever," he said.

While it is "easy to understand" the behaviour of the people, such a chaotic situation also leads to deprivation of water of those who need it most, particularly hospital patients.

The ICRC estimates that Aden, with a population of more than 400,000, needs a minimum of two million litres of water based on a per-day "minimum" daily consumption of four to five litres each. This means ten 50,000-litre trucks making four trips per day.

The ICRC is in no position to meet this demand, Mr. Golay said, and can only concentrate on stopgap measures to address the needs of the most pressing cases. "It is an infra-red short-term solution," he conceded, but the only means available at ICRC disposal.

Up to 40 "traditional" water wells in Aden are being

used now to meet the immediate needs of the population; the ICRC has supplied pumping equipment to 25 of them in addition to chlorine for purification for all of them.

In view of the large consumption, the water wells are depleting fast and face the risk of seepage of polluted or high salinity water into the wells which will raise the spectre of epidemics if consumed, Mr. Golay said.

The only way to handle the problem until the regular water supply station is repaired and restored to pre-crisis levels "in three to four weeks," Mr. Golay said, is to preposition large water trucks in strategic locations around the city and replenish them with water trucked in from elsewhere regularly under a proper security environment.

"Fuel supply is another

problem," he said, noting that fuel trucks will have to travel with convoys of water trucks to feed them in view of the large distances that have to be covered.

The ICRC, which maintains an international staff strength of 25 supported by 45 local employees and works in coordination with the Yemeni Red Crescent Society, has already supplied up to 35 tonnes of medical supplies to various hospitals and stands ready to send in more depending on needs, Mr. Golay said.

The agency has set up a surgery unit of its own staffed by two doctors at Al Thawra hospital in the city of Taiz, he said.

In Aden, other problems facing relief work at hospitals included temperatures soaring up to more than 40 degrees Celsius and frequent power cuts, he said.

Cabinet sees King's meeting with Rabin as 'historic'

(Continued from page 1)

"There is a margin to introduce and pass legislation if the two houses and the administration agree on a certain move," Dr. Tarawneh said.

"This is distinctive," Dr. Tarawneh said in response to a question about the significance of addressing the joint session, adding that it is "not usual to invite heads of state to address a joint session and this is a major event."

The importance of the invitation to the King, in contrast to the invitation to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat who signed the Camp David accords with Israel, is that congress will host the King without requiring the signing of a peace treaty.

"The King's invitation (to address the joint session) without a peace treaty is an important indication," he said adding that "coupled with the U.S. administration's commitment to help Jordan financially and militarily, indicates that Washington is serious" in its pledges to Jordan.

Asked to respond to criticism by some Arab parties of His Majesty's acceptance of President Clinton's invitation, Dr. Anani said Jordan expected to hear "a lot of talk from different sides."

"Each side in the framework of this important event wants to utilise this event according to his political agenda."

"We know exactly what we want... Jordan wants a comprehensive and just peace and wants to maintain the integrity of the (Jordan-Israel) agenda," Dr. Anani pointed out.

"We know that the negotiations process is not easy and that there are necessities and steps that have to be fulfilled to reach the goal," he said. "Therefore, we are very clear... we will not sign a peace treaty and then go back to negotiations... we have to discuss the items and reach agreement; the peace treaty will come at the end in the form of a clear agreement that we do not need to go back to and discuss again."

"Everyone must realise that within the peace process each side has its own aims," he said. "We hear a lot from the Israeli press that achievement of peace could come through particular symbols. These symbols, if they do not come at the right time for (us) would mean allowing for pushing the Israeli priorities at the expense of the Jordanian side."

He said that the time was now opportune to "push negotiations in the (right) direction and to create the proper momentum in it."

He pointed out that Jordan did not enter into negotiations for the sake of negotiations "but to negotiate and reach a conclusion."

"We believe that right now is a very good opportunity to set the negotiations on the right track that would lead to arriving at peace."

"When we say that we want a peace that is rich in content and context we mean that we also have to worry about Jordanian needs," Dr. Anani said, adding that "we have a writing on the wall to say that there is serious concern about Jordan's needs."

"We are seeking our right to exercise sovereignty over our land and water and after that to complete the rest of the items on the common agenda," Dr. Anani said.

"We know that each side has its demands and priorities, but the negotiations process is to determine the right place and the right procedures to achieve the interests of each party," he added.

"Asked whether the people of Jordan were ready to accept the scheduled meeting between His Majesty and Mr. Rabin, Dr. Anani said: "First

of all we should not appoint ourselves as judges of the situation that His Majesty is in."

"His Majesty has been the leader of this country for four decades... he is very sensitive to the needs and requirements of the Jordanian people... he can be a very good judge of the people and what they aspire to... he has always been frank and candid with the people. The King said ahead of time he was going to meet with prime minister Rabin and the (scheduled) time was thought of as optimal for such a meeting to take place."

Dr. Anani added: "People's attitudes sometimes get mixed between what they feel about the whole peace process and their reactions to a given development in the process; some people have an attitude about the peace process they think it will not add up to much... they think that Israel is not going to deliver."

But, he said, "we cannot help that... it is a free country... a democratic country... we expect that different opinions will be expressed here and there." He said he felt confident that the "majority of Jordanians, when they see that peace is fair and equitable, they will certainly go for it."

5 sentenced to death in plot to kill Alfi

CAIRO (AFP) — A military court Saturday sentenced five militants to death who were accused of plotting to kill Egyptian Interior Minister Hassan Alfi.

The five were among 17 militants on trial at the Cairo higher military court for a bomb attack in the Egyptian capital last August, which wounded General Alfi in the arm and killed three passers-by.

The court also sentenced six defendants to five years of hard labour and four to three years.

Two defendants were acquitted. Military courts have now handed down 55 death sentences since 1992, 39 of which were carried out.

Nine of the defendants were charged with being members of Talaat Al Fatah (Vanguard of Conquest), the military wing of the fundamentalist group Al Jihad (holy war).

Lesser charges included possession and trading in illegal weapons, and forging identity papers.

The trial, which opened June 5, was held amid tight security in the Ghab Al Ahmar military base on the edge of a Cairo suburb.

Soldiers set up roadblocks at the base's entrance, and barred relatives crowding at the gate, allowing in only one for each defendant.

The foreign press was banned from the court.

The verdict was announced about 30 minutes after the session opened.

The defendants later emerged from the base in a military truck, waving to their relatives through tiny windows and chanting anti-government slogans.

There was a heavy military escort. Relatives chased after the convoy, shouting out the men's names. Some mothers threw themselves on the ground in grief.

"Our men are with God, and the government is against those who are with God," said Howaida, wife of Osama Mohammad Rashad, who was one of those sentenced to death.

Mr. Rashad and another accused were only arrested last week.

The five facing death were also accused of murdering a dissident member of their group and the main prosecution witness in the trial of militants convicted of trying



Hassan Alfi

to kill Prime Minister Atef Sedki in November.

Dr. Sedki escaped the attack unharmed, but a 15-year-old girl died.

The prosecution had also tried to charge the defendants with plotting to assassinate U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali during an African summit in Cairo in June 1993, but failed to make the accusation stick.

The defendants all pleaded not guilty to the charges, saying their confessions were extracted under torture.

Court medical reports confirmed that at least one defendant, Masud Al Aref Taleb, was tortured, a source in the Egyptian Human Rights Organisation said.

In October 1992 President Hosni Mubarak decided to transfer all trials of militants to military courts to ensure speedy verdicts and ensure that penalties were carried out.

The militants launched a violent campaign two years ago to oust Mr. Mubarak's secular government. Nearly 400 people have died in the violence.

Kuwaiti deported

Egypt deported a Kuwaiti charity worker suspected of funding militants in Cairo, security sources said on Saturday.

The sources said Abdul Rahman Al Mujalbil, who was arrested in Egypt in April after giving a cheque to a printing press owner as a fee for producing copies of an Islamic reference book, was sent home on Friday.

The Islamic Heritage Revival Committee, a Kuwaiti charity, said last May that one of its workers had been arrested in Cairo for handing over the cheque, but did not say how much it was for.

Sanaa faces challenge of old suspicions

ADEN (R) — Yemen's victorious north faces the tough task of restoring basic services to captured Aden, but its even stiffer challenge is overcoming deep-rooted suspicions that sparked the country's two months of war.

Residents of the southern city, who endured weeks of sieges and shelling followed by desert and widespread looting, say the north wants to wipe out the political and economic autonomy of the former Marxist south.

In a scene reminiscent of the collapse of communism in eastern Europe, northerners ripped from its stand a three-metre bronze statue of two people holding hammers, representing Aden's independence and socialist victory in 1967 against British rule.

Although there have been no public displays of opposition to the northern control in the week since Aden fell, many residents privately voice bitterness that they are now being ruled by President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

"They (northerners) say they want Aden to be the

economic capital of Yemen so why do they steal our goods and burn down our factories?" said Mahmoud, an engineer at Aden's Hiswa power station where offices have been systematically ransacked.

"This is annexation, not unity," said one of his colleagues, echoing the longstanding views of defeated southern leaders during the four years of unity with the north.

The northern victory in the war has crushed a bid by southern leader Ali Salem Al Beidh to secede from unity. His officials say he plans to regroup leading southerners who fled like him when Aden and other parts of the south were captured.

Accusations fly in Aden as to who started the rampage of lawlessness, still not under control, which wrecked government offices, companies, hotels as well as houses and many shops.

Whoever was responsible, the violence and suffering in Aden, where people queue daily for untreated water at ancient wells, has highlighted

a deep gulf of mistrust and historic divide between this liberal city and the conservative capital Sanaa.

"The northerners are tribesmen, they are ruled by the imams. Now they will control us," said one man.

"They want Sharia (Islamic law) and no more socialism. They won't even let women work," said a southern journalist.

Aden, a largely secular society after a hundred years of British occupation, followed by local Marxist rule, has long tolerated drinking and even brewing alcohol.

But northern troops burned down Aden's brewery within hours of entering the city last week. Since then, liquor stores have been ransacked and their contents smashed to shreds of "Allahu Akbar."

Northerners have other suspicions about their southern compatriots.

Defence Minister Abdul Rabbo Mansour Hadi said this week he aimed to reintegrate the defeated southern army brigades into a unified Yemeni force within six months.

"But they are more Marxists than the Soviets ever were. They cannot adjust to the new world order," he complained.

The cabinet is trying at meetings in Aden to come up with a master plan to repair the damaged city and restore order.

"This cabinet meeting is rubbish. People are now saying the north is trying to make us emigrate," said one businessman.

Residents say the damage to their city is the worst they can remember in decades of turbulent history, including a 1986 coup in which thousands of people were killed.

They say food convoys carrying fruit, vegetables and meat from the fertile north to the parched southern city often do not reach the most needy and that some convoys are returning north piled high with looted goods.

"They may give, but look what they take back," said one resident. "If the northerners stay here, everyone will leave."

NEWS IN BRIEF

King Hassan names new finance minister

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco on Friday appointed Mourad Cherif, 49, as finance minister to replace Mohammed Sagou, the information ministry said. Mr. Cherif served briefly as minister of foreign trade and investments in 1993. He is a former director-general of the Omnium Nord Africain (ONA), the largest private enterprise in the country which is part-owned by the royal family. His career has also included senior executive posts in other private enterprises, notably in the mining sector. Mr. Sagou was appointed last November when the king named a government of non-party technocrats. He had served as deputy to the previous finance minister, Mohammed Berrada. Mr. Sagou put together the 1994 state budget adopted by parliament. But financial sources said they believed a supplementary budget would be brought in because the deficit was expected to be higher at 3.5 per cent of gross domestic product than the 1.5 per cent originally forecast by Mr. Sagou.

Detained Iranian women meet families

NICOSIA (R) — Three Iranian women, arrested for the murder of two Christian pastors and for planning to plant bombs in Iran, had a tearful reunion with their families on Friday, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported. It said the women told their relatives, in the presence of reporters, that they were ashamed of their links to the Iraq-based opposition Mujahdeen-e-Khalq group, which Iran blames for the killings and attempted bombings. Iran has arrested the three women and a man for killing Christian clerics Tazoo Michaelian and Mehdi Dibaj and planning to bomb a Shi'ite shrine and a Sunni mosque. The Mujahdeen deny responsibility and blame the bombing and murders on the Iranian government.

Fire rages in grounds of Tehran prison

TEHRAN (R) — A fire raged for about five hours late on Friday in the grounds of Tehran's huge Evin prison and explosions were heard there but neighbours said there did not appear to be any casualties and buildings were untouched. There was no official word on Saturday on the fire or what caused it. The prison is a major landmark in Tehran's residential northern suburbs and became notorious during the rule of the late Shah of Iran as a place where political prisoners were held. It continued to be used by the government after the 1979 Islamic revolution. Neighbours said prison authorities may have been trying to clear an area of shrub and thick vegetation between the prison buildings and its outer perimeter wall but the fire had apparently gone out of control. The area was believed to have been mined since the days of the Shah.

Sudan state governor eases food shortage

KHARTOUM (R) — The governor of a central Sudanese state hit by a drought that has forced thousands of people to flee has bought sorghum to ease a food shortage, a government newspaper said on Saturday. The newspaper Al Sudan Al Hadith quoted Mohammed Al Hassan Al Amin, governor of northern Kordofan state, as saying his government had borrowed 200 million Sudanese pounds (\$645,000) to buy sorghum, Sudan's staple food. In the past few months thousands of people were reported to have fled from northern Kordofan towards Khartoum because of the drought. But Mr. Amin said some people were now returning because of the stability in northern Kordofan. He said 50 per cent of the sorghum requirements of the people had been met.

Turkey nabs nine for heroin smuggling

ANKARA (R) — A Turkish court ordered the arrest of seven Britons, one Pakistani and a Turk for attempting to smuggle 6.7 kilograms of heroin to Britain, Anadolu news agency said. The state security court in the Aegean port of Izmir charged the nine on Friday with "organised drugs smuggling," it said in an overnight report. The offence, much graver than possession or sale of drugs under Turkish laws, is punishable by 15 years in jail. An official of the Foreign Office in London confirmed the names of the Britons as Simon Jones Jellet, born 1975, Karen Springett, born 1958, Melissa Jayne Harcombe, born 1971, John Albert Miller, born 1938, Daniel James Simmonds, born 1971, Barry Stephen Harwood, born 1952 and Ozkan Djemal, born 1949. Turkish newspapers said Djemal was born a Turkish Cypriot. Police earlier said six of the Britons had been detained in the resort of Kusadasi on July 12 with 3.3 kilograms of heroin as they boarded a boat bound for Greece. Police seized the seventh Briton in a hotel and Pakistani Mohammed Anwar in his Kusadasi home with the rest of the drugs.

S. Africa probes Israel tie in murders

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police probing two murders they believe were committed by Israeli agents have added another two killings to their investigations, newspapers reported on Saturday. Detectives were studying whether a double murder in the eastern Cape City of Port Elizabeth last May was connected to the other killings, the papers said. In the Port Elizabeth killings, Scott Ayton and Felix Coetzee were tied up in the home of Ayton's parents and shot in the back of the head. Police at the time could suggest no motive but Port Elizabeth police spokesman Henry Chalmers was quoted as saying there could be a link to the killing of Allan Kidger and Wynand van Wyk. Johannesburg police have said they believe Mossad killed Kidger in November 1991 and Van Wyk in April last year in an effort to halt the shipment of strategic chemicals to Israel's enemies. Detectives have also reopened inquiries into two apparent suicides which they believe could be connected to the plot.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 7311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 ... Les Maitres Du Pain
18:30 ... News in French
18:45 ... Faith For Ever
19:00 ... News in Hebrew
19:15 ... The Investigator
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... You Bet Your Life
21:00 ... Stolen Lives
21:05 ... News in English
22:30 ... The House of Elton
23:00 ... The Second Half

PRAYER TIMES

04:04 ... Fajr
05:36 ... Sunrise/Duha
12:42 ... Dhuhur
16:22 ... 'Asr
19:47 ... Maghreb
21:27 ... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
632705
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
627441
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623636
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 62843

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 71331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assiout International Church Tel. 625256

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 776336

Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Fine weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Agaba 25/33

Deserts 15/30

Jordan Valley 24/35

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 28, Agaba 44 Humidity

readings: Amman 47 per cent, Agaba 37 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENAER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fayez Dabbas 759155
Dr. Jamil Tarif 794710
Dr. Abbas Al Hakeem 885446
Dr. Shabaneh Al Izzah 753774
First pharmacy 649112
Ferdous pharmacy 776336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoba pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649495
Sunshine pharmacy 637660
Nairoba pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IBRD:

Dr. Fayez Al Qadi 248743

Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Tariq Hijawi 985445

Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence: Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 621111, 637777

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Animal Hospital 661646

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 774111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repair 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 816155

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-3320

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-3320

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Cabinet floats coffee prices

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Saturday decided to float coffee prices and to cancel the state monopoly on coffee.

A Cabinet statement said prices of raw and roasted coffee will be floated, but the Ministry of Supply will monitor the situation and could step and take appropriate measures when necessary to protect public interest.

The government's measure followed weeks of uncertainty concerning coffee prices in the local markets in the wake of reports that up to half of next year's Brazilian crop, the world's largest, is thought to have been destroyed after the worst frosts in 13 years struck the South American continent this month.

A kilo of roasted, ground coffee was last month fixed at J.D. 2.5, but gradually began to disappear from the shelves and rumours about expected significant hikes in the price of coffee caused customers to hoard the commodity last week.

The Council of Ministers also Saturday endorsed a draft agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on a \$4 million grant.

The grant will help finance an \$11 million project entailing the establishment of 12 mother and child health care centres to be run by the Health Ministry, the Royal Medical Services and the private sector to provide care to women in neo and post-natal periods.

The Cabinet also approved a recommendation by Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf for the appointment of Asem Haddad as director of the Ministry's Department on Encouraging Investments.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Royal Decree endorses new CSCC chief
AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree Saturday was issued endorsing a government appointment of Abdul Hadi al-Makhadmeh as director general of the Civil Service Consumer Corporation (CSCC). He replaces Mohammad Al Abdullat who has been made advisor at the prime ministry.

Policemen head for Croatia
AMMAN (Petra) — Another group of Jordanian policemen left Amman for Croatia to take part in the work of U.N. peacekeeping forces operating there. The group were seen off by Public Security Department Director, Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Udwan and other senior police officers.

Interpreting course ends
AMMAN (J.T.) — A training course for bilateral, consecutive and simultaneous interpreting was held at the British Council in Amman. The course was attended by 15 participants from various government institutions and private companies. The seminar was prepared and taught by Basil Hatem, professor of interpreting at Jordan University for Women and Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh.

Bahraini educationists arrive
AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Ministry of Education in Bahrain arrived in Amman Saturday for talks with the Ministry of Education officials. The delegation announced that it would seek to conclude contracts with educationists specialising in teaching school curricula with teachers to instruct in keeping and accounting, fine arts, Arabic and computer subjects at Bahraini schools.

King congratulates Petra on 25th anniversary

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a message to the staff and management of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on the agency's 25th anniversary wishing them continued success in their mission.

"I send you my greetings and appreciations on this anniversary and I bless your efforts to serve the nation," said the King.

The Jordan News Agency, said the King, serves as Jordan's clear voice, reaching various parts of the world, and I fully back your endeavours and bless your

work, which is conducted with objectivity, seeks the truth and is performed with a commitment to honour the profession.

The agency currently releases nearly 200 news items and other informative material in Arabic and English on a daily basis.

Through agreements with the Federation of Arab News Agencies, Petra has been maintaining links with various news agencies of the Arab, Islamic and foreign nations.

Petra employs 170 workers, including 100 journalists

stationed throughout the country and seven correspondents appointed Saturday to serve in several Arab and non-Arab countries.

The appointments, approved by Information Minister Jawad Anani, are: Adnan Nasraween - Paris, Mohammad Daqamseh - New York, Radi Al Abdallat - Moscow, Usama Hababeh - Copenhagen, Shadia Mahmoud - Cairo, Abdul Rahman Shibli - Damascus and Dalal Amr - Beirut.

Next week another group of foreign correspondents are to be appointed.

Russian envoy arrives for talks on peace process developments

AMMAN (J.T.) — Russian envoy Victor Posuvalyuk arrived in Jordan Saturday from Syria and said he planned to discuss Russian-Jordanian relations and the Middle East with officials here.

Mr. Posuvalyuk, who is head of the Middle East and North Africa desk at the Russian foreign ministry, said in a statement that the "peace process is currently witnessing important developments and we are interested to hear the views of Jordanian officials regarding these developments so that Russia, which co-sponsors the peace process with the United States, can build a policy with regard to its stand vis-a-vis the various parties to the peace process."

The Russian diplomat said he had met in Tunis with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat before the latter left for Gaza and he also held meetings with Israeli officials who were visiting Tunisia, to learn about their views with regard to Middle East developments.

The envoy said he was looking forward to the meetings with Jordanian officials.

The Associated Press (AP) reported that Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa earlier Saturday met Mr. Posuvalyuk to discuss recent developments in the peace process.

Diplomats said Boris Yeltsin's representative was expected to persuade Mr. Sharaa to end Syria and its ally Lebanon's boycott of the multilateral track of the Mideast talks, AP said.

Mr. Posuvalyuk arrived in Damascus Thursday after heading Moscow's delegation to regional multilateral talks in Tunisia.

The Russian envoy told reporters at the end of those talks that he hoped Syria and Lebanon would join the ongoing forum, which was also attended by the United States and Arab and Israeli participants.

The two-day meeting in Tunisia was part of a series of Arab-Israeli encounters on future cooperation in the fields of economy, water, refugees, disarmament and environment that began after the 1991 Madrid peace conference.

Syria and Lebanon have boycotted the multilateral talks, saying their participation is contingent on tangible progress in direct negotiations with Israel.

Minister urges more training in trades

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi Saturday urged educational and vocational institutions and universities to develop training programmes that would cater to the needs of the labour market.

Training in different trades is required to help reduce the demand for government jobs, said the minister at the opening of a 10-day training seminar for women teachers in private schools.

He said the labour market earnestly awaits the finalisation of the new labour law because it has provisions which address the needs of social and economic development.

Mr. Ghazawi said he hoped a new law on reorganising trade fields will be passed to guarantee specific conditions for the workers in the private sector businesses.

According to Ahmad Shawabkeh, head of the Occupation Educational Institute which is sponsoring the seminar, the 30 participants will be educated on Jordan's labour rules, the social security system, rights and responsibilities of working women and the role of women in socio-economic development, occupational safety, individual and mass labour contracting and the work of women's unions, among other topics on the agenda.

According to Mr. Shawabkeh, the seminar will be followed by a general meeting to tackle social and economic issues facing working women in private schools and political parties' roles in finding solutions to these problems.

Several owners and directors of private schools attended the opening session.

INSPECTION TOUR:

Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday visits Jerash to inspect preparations for the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts which she will open next Tuesday. Queen Noor, who visits the site of the Jerash Festival every year before the start of the events, stressed the importance of providing the visitors with all the services which they may need, including easily accessible entry and exit posts and clean and comfortable areas for rest and refreshments. The Queen was met by Princess Wijdan Ali, Senator Leila Sharaa and members of the Higher National Committee for the Jerash Festival (Petra photo)



Jerash Festival has a surprise in store

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Whether you like surprises or not, the Higher National Committee for the Jerash Festival is hiding one for its Arab and foreign audience.

Jerash Festival often presents masterpieces whether musical or artistic, but this year's festival will be different in that it will introduce "Garasia Forum of Creativity."

Garasia Forum is intended to deal with various types of creative products, such as: poetry, music, theatre, painting... etc. so as to pave the way for all Jordanians to take part in the festival.

The idea was first born in Mohammad Mashariq's mind, then he enthusiastically worked on it and translated it into real activity.

Its importance arises from two major facts: first, there is a great number of talented Jordanian minds in various artistic areas who have not yet had the chance to publicise their products, keeping in mind that their artistic level may be higher than those already invited to the festival.

Second, mixing poetry with music is considered a new experiment. It will be presented for the first time of the Jerash Festival.

As far as music and poetry are concerned, audiences will meet originality, modernisation, in addition to folkloric pieces that are open to diverse cultures, modernisation and related techniques. Bravely, Garasia will present a mixture of poetry and music, or music and dancing with painting. The audience will live

romantic moments in a romantic atmosphere... listening to poetry being recited to music, and enjoy the marvelous, colourful background that will be painted during the other two activities being performed.

Six poets will recite: Ali Amri on July 25, Mohammad Ubeidulla on July 26, Ziad Anani on July 27, Qusai Labidi and Ibrahim Nasralla on July 28, and Ghazi Dhiba on July 29.

Among the musicians participating in Garasia will be Yousef Khashouh, the renowned Jordanian musician who conducted orchestras in London and Rome. He is also a composer of symphonies, who gave birth to some masterpieces like Al-Quds (Jerusalem). The Great Arab Revolt and Al-Husseini.

In addition, Faculty-X

will enrich Garasia with jazz music and some strange combination of other metal instruments. Other oriental instruments like the Qanoon, nai and 'ud will also be played by young artists such as Emil Haddad, Salah Maraga, Naif Zu'bi, Imad/Francis Bataih, Kamal Namri and Walid Hashem.

Concerning theatre, Garasia is planning to introduce the modern trends of Jordanian theatre meant to be creative not commercial.

The first play to be performed on July 24 — among the six plays listed — is "Two Hats And One Head." It is a political play that sheds some light on the "negative hero" dominant in today's political, social and cultural life. Jamal Mari, Bassam Abu Aish, and Rania Ismail who won Best Actor for her major

role in the third Jordanian Youth Theatre Festival last year, will be starring in this play, with Salah Horani as director.

Other plays include: "Body Lab is Existence," written and directed by Venessa Mashariq; "Patient People," directed by Abdul-Karim Jarrah and played by Mohammad Shawabka and Rania Ismail; "There, on the Other Coast," directed by Thiab Shahin and starring Tahani Abdul-Rahman; and finally "You... Not You," directed by Khalid Turaiif, starring Rita Khuri and Mustafa Abu Hnu.

Garasia Forum organisers said this new theatrical experiment is open to all Jordanians interested in participating in a novel cultural experience which they hope will become a tradition of the Jerash Festival.

Burst in pipe causes loss of dam water

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra) — At least 50,000 cubic metres (CMs) of irrigation water have been lost from the Kafrein Dam in the Jordan Valley because of a leak in one of the main pipes, according to the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Saturday.

A JVA statement said that a worn pipe installed in 1968 caused the water to rush out into the Kafrein Valley. It said efforts were under way Saturday to deal with the situation.

Labour dispute ends in compromise Italian Hospital staff to get pay increase

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A labour dispute between the management of the Italian Hospital in Amman and the General Union of Health Service Workers has ended with the management agreeing to meet some of the union's demands concerning hospital staff.

Arab employees and doctors on staff at the hospital will receive a JD10 monthly pay increase retroactive to June 1, 1994.

Management will continue to adhere to commitments made in earlier agreements with the union, according to Hanna Saba,

the hospital director.

He told the Jordan Times that the hospital management, which employs 70 doctors, nurses and workers, had no dispute with its employees at any time, but since the start of 1994, the union sought to secure additional salary increases to the workers although they had continued to receive annual increments.

The union had demanded that the management offer the workers two extra monthly salaries annually instead of one, and that a savings fund be set up for the workers, according to Mr. Saba.

He said these demands were turned down by the

management in its negotiations with the union over the last few months because the management believed that the employees had no reason to complain on any matter as all their rights are safeguarded and guaranteed.

The employees are offered free food and health insurance, and they are entitled to annual leaves, annual salary increments and other regular benefits, added Mr. Saba.

Except for the 20 non-Jordanian employees and doctors employed at the start of 1994, all the workers are entitled to a JD10 pay increase on their monthly salaries effective June 1, 1994, according to

the agreement signed Thursday by the hospital management and the union under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Labour, said Mr. Saba.

The ministry had appointed a committee chaired by Abdul Rahman Majali to end the dispute. Founded in 1926 by the Rome-based National Association Relief of Italian Missionaries in Jordan, the hospital is the oldest in the Kingdom.

Mr. Saba and Mr. Majali signed the agreement along with Salem Hijazin and Akram Abu Zeineh, the union's representatives, at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Labour.

WHAT'S GOING ON

★ Film entitled "Fort Apache" at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m. (127 minutes).

CONCERT

★ Concert at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Oil paintings exhibition by Sa'ad Hilmi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Alla Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (Tel. 639350).

★ Amman 5th Furniture Fair at the World Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 847113).

★ Ceramic exhibition by plastic artists Dr. Mahmoud Sadeq and Da'd Miffeh at Bakr Barjous Engineering Establishment, University Road (Tel. 688479).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Omar Hamdan Shalman at Darat Al Foun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lawelbeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

★ Plastic art exhibition by Hussein Da'sh at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art (Tel. 695291).

★ Exhibition by plastic artist Kheiri Harzallah at the Jordanian Plastic Association in Shmeisani (Tel. 699914).

★ Painting exhibition by Iraqi painters "The Pioneers Group" at Al Ain Art Gallery — Wadi Saqra (Tel. 644451).

LECTURE

★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Role of Palestinian Intellectuals in Current Arab Renaissance" by Dr. Siyar Kawkab Al Jamil at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

Inquiry ordered into alleged murder involving Jordanian suspect abroad

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Saturday said it has asked the Interior Ministry to follow up on a case of a Jordanian national with U.S. citizenship suspected by the U.S. authorities of strangling his 40-year-old American wife to death on July 3, then fleeing to Jordan with his two children.

According to Ahmad Mobeidin, director of the Information Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ministry received no official request from the U.S. government regarding the suspect, identified by U.S. law enforcers as Mohammad Ismail Abequa (45).

The ministry, however, was informed by Jordan's Ambassador to the United Nations Adnan Abu Odeh, that the victim's sister had visited the envoy in New York and asked him to follow-up on the case, and requested custody of Mr. Abequa's children, who are U.S. citizens and residents of the state of New Jersey. Mr. Mobeidin said.

He told the Jordan Times that on July 12, the ministry also received a letter from the Jordanian Charge D' Affaires in Washington Ayman Amari, informing the ministry that he was visited by Morris County, New Jersey prosecutor Michael Murphy, state lawmakers and U.S. Congressman Robert Torricelli, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

An Associated Press (AP) report Thursday said U.S. lawmakers' talks with Jordanian officials in the U.S. were "optimistic and positive." There is no extradition treaty between Jordan and the United States.

U.S. authorities and lawmakers have asked Jordan to cooperate in the return of the suspect, the AP report said, adding that Congressman Torricelli and Senator Frank Lautenberg sent a letter to His Majesty King Hussein, urging him to intervene in the case.

Mr. Mobeidin told the Jordan Times that Jordanian authorities were unable to detect if the suspect had entered the Kingdom, and U.S. immigration officials were unable to prove if the suspect had exited the U.S.

According to the AP report, U.S. authorities believe that the suspect is in Jordan, and they fear for the safety of the children (3-year-old Sami and 6-year-old Lisa) because they claim that Mr. Abequa has a history of spousal and child abuse.

Mr. Abequa is suspected of strangling his wife Nihal (40), of Turkish origin, and fleeing the United States. Mrs. Abequa's body was found three days later on July 6 in the couple's apartment in Parsippany-Troy Hills, New Jersey.

According to the AP report, U.S. authorities believe that the suspect is in Jordan, and they fear for the safety of the children (3-year-old Sami and 6-year-old Lisa) because they claim that Mr. Abequa has a history of spousal and child abuse.

EU prepares for life with Santer

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Union faced a torrent of media criticism Saturday for appointing a new European Commission president who is widely portrayed as being a shadow of the man he will replace.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Jacques Santer was chosen at an emergency EU summit Friday to take over from Jacques Delors when the Frenchman leaves the bloc's top administrative job in January after two five-year terms.

Mr. Santer, 57, has often, sometimes savagely, been characterised as an amiable, but malleable conciliator, a far cry from the passionate visionary Delors, who has helped steer Europe towards deeper integration for a decade.

L'Europe S'enterre said one Belgian daily, a French play on words with Mr Santer's name that translates as "Europe buries itself."

Britain's Guardian said that at worst the appointment "hangs a notice on the commission's door proclaiming: Out to lunch."

Some newspapers, such as Spain's La Gaceta de Los Negocios, were more charitable, but even this was because Mr. Santer's alleged weakness was seen as an advantage after 10 years of

increased intervention in European life by the Delors commission.

Mr. Santer is well aware of the criticism aimed at him as a compromise appointment, the first choice of no one.

"I ask you to judge me on my actions, which will translate my commitment to Europe, and not in advance," he said at a news conference after the appointment had been made.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl echoed the request. "I passionately plead for him to be given a fair chance to show what ideas he has and what he can do," the chancellor said.

Mr. Santer's first task will be to enlarge the European Parliament that he has the stuff to lead the EU's executive, the soon to be enlarged 12-nation group's engine of regulation and enforcement.

He is due to appear before the assembly next Thursday at its session in Strasbourg, France. Afterwards, Euro-deputies were to have a non-binding vote of confidence on the appointment.

It is highly unlikely that the vote will go against Mr. Santer. Both major political groups, the Socialists and the Christian Democrats, have indicated they will back him.

Mr. Santer has years of experience in EU matters and was heavily involved in

negotiations for two of the union's major projects of the last decade, the creation of a single market and the Maastricht Treaty on Political and Monetary Union.

He also shares the mainstream European belief in an integrated Europe, albeit with less of the public fervour of Mr. Delors and some of his EU counterparts.

But he nonetheless faces an image problem stemming in part from his relative obscurity as head of the EU's tiniest state.

More problematic, still, is the fact that Mr. Santer is being compared with Mr. Delors and with the better-known and stronger candidates who failed for various reasons to get the job.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, for example, said he was not interested. Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene was vetoed by Britain. Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers fell afoul of the Franco-German alliance that traditionally makes much of the running in the union.

For the leaders of the EU, themselves, Mr. Santer is seen as the kind of compromise needed at the time.

Having put the crisis caused by Britain's veto of Mr. Dehaene behind it, the union will now be able to focus on the other pressing

issues before it — notably enlargement to the east and the fight against double-digit unemployment.

At his first press conference after being chosen, Mr. Santer kept of trademark smile as one British journalist which had already blasted him in print asked whether his appointment meant the drive for closer integration was over.

"I don't know where you got all this information, maybe you asked my wife or other people," he said to general laughter.

"So you don't need to ask me anything," he added curtly, and looked around for the next question.

His humour quickly rebounded when he argued the European Union's smallest member country could produce a great president.

"In the middle ages, Luxembourg provided four emperors of Germany, didn't it?" he asked.

Noting their realm stretched far into the present-day Czech and Slovak republics, he added: "Whenever I go to those countries, I tell my colleagues I have no territorial demands on them."

Mr. Santer, 57, alternated his answers in French, German and English, no matter which language the questions were put in.

Asked what made him

different from Mr. Dehaene, whom Britain had vetoed as too much of a centraliser, he noted instead what they had in common as Christian Democrats from small countries.

"There must have been other reasons why there was not a consensus on Dehaene, whom I supported until noontime today," he said without shedding any more light on what he thought.

He was equally vague about his stand on further European integration, declining to sketch out his thoughts until he discussed them with the European Parliament next week.

All he said was he wanted "to contribute to the emergence of a prosperous, mutually supportive and respected Europe."

Aides describe his political outlook as moderately conservative, free trading and Atlanticist.

His critics say he could be a weak president, easily manipulated by the big member states, and unlikely to offer a vision like his predecessor Jacques Delors.

British Prime Minister John Major called Mr. Santer "a reconciler and a healer... the right man in the right place at the right time."

Mr. Santer says he wants his appointment as European Commission president to



Jacques Santer

show there is more to the grand duchy than simple finance, the Tageblatt Daily reported Saturday.

11-year-old American files MIG-29

MOSCOW (AP) — Katrina Mumaw's legs are too short to reach the pedals of a MIG-29. Russia's fastest fighter jet, but the 11-year-old American still managed to take the jet up, enjoy some loops, and break the sound barrier. "You can go straight up. I never did that before," Katrina told the English-language Moscow Times in an article published Wednesday. The sixth-grader from Lancaster, Calif., is the youngest person ever to fly a Russian military jet, according to Kent Ertugrul, founder of MIGs Etc., an American company that offers civilians the chance to fly state-of-the-art fighter planes. Such flights are impossible in the West because of opposition from the military and regulators. But about 150 people have flown MIGs since the company opened last fall. General Manager Marina Zaitseva told the newspaper. They range from experienced military pilots to first-time thrill-seekers. Katrina's father, Jim, sold his car and borrowed money to cover the costs of his daughter's two-day trip to Russia and the \$8,500 for two discounted flight sessions. Mr. Zaitseva said. Katrina, who began flying at 8, wants to be an astronaut. She flies unassisted but must be accompanied by an instructor until she is 16. She has 111 recreational dogfight victories to her credit and scores a 75 per cent "victory" rate at Air Combat USA, where pilots dogfight in Marchetti propeller planes with electronic "bullets," the Moscow Times said. At the Zhukovskiy Experimental Air Base, the 4-foot-8 girl took control of steering but not engine thrust, since she cannot reach the pedals. She hit a speed of Mach 1.3, or 1.3 times the speed of sound. "You had to push harder on the stick to control and stuff, but it was still a lot more sensitive than a hawkler sea fury," she said. "I couldn't break the sound barrier in any other plane."

Comet to wreck love life — geomancer

HONG KONG (R) — The expected collision of comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 into this planet Jupiter will wreak havoc with the love life of people and send stock markets on a roller-coaster ride, according to a Hong Kong geomancer. Chung King-Kwong, a specialist in Feng Shui, the traditional Chinese art of geomancy, said there would be more "lovelorn souls" wandering in the comet's wake. The Eastern Express newspaper reported Saturday. The planet Jupiter represents the element wood, Chung said. Wood, one of five elements in the Chinese astrological system, represents stability. "If the element wood is pulled down, the confidence of the people becomes bad," Chung said. "Property and share prices will fluctuate violently."

Phil Collins seeking divorce

LONDON (AP) — Rock star Phil Collins said he has asked his wife of 10 years for a divorce. "The reason for my request is because over the last year I have gradually come to realise that my emotional commitment to my marriage is not what it was or should be," he said in a statement to the British news agency Press Association. The 43-year-old singer, songwriter and his wife, Jill, married in 1984 and have a 5-year-old daughter, Lily. Collins, who is in the United States on a tour, said he had an affair two years ago with a woman he had not seen for 20 years. He said his wife found it hard to forgive and the relationship became more and more strained as time went on. He issued the statement because of press reports about his strained marriage and "I feel the time has come for me to step in and offer my side of a sad story..." He can confirm that he has asked his wife Jill for a divorce. She is reluctant to give me this, but we are however living separate lives at this time," the statement said. "It is my intention to treat this parting in as dignified a manner as possible. I would therefore request that the spotlight be turned off my family at least, so that they can try to continue to function as normally as possible."

Italy to block Slovenia's EU bid

TRIESTE, Italy (AFP) — Italy has given Slovenia three months to settle a dispute over Italian property confiscated under the old Tito regime, during which it will block Ljubljana's bid for closer ties with the European Union, an Italian official said Saturday.

Livio Caputo, deputy secretary of state at the Italian Foreign Ministry, said Rome was acting with the consent of the European Union.

Mr. Caputo spoke in the sidelines of a 10-nation summit here Saturday of the Central European Initiative, which includes Slovenia whose ambassador immediately deplored the ultimatum as "unfair." The summit was focused mainly on the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Caputo said Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi delivered the condition to the Slovenian counterpart Janez Drnovsek, outside the summit talks here, at their first meeting since Mr. Berlusconi came to power in April.

The move rules out any chance that the closer EU ties sought by Slovenia would be discussed at an EU foreign ministers meeting Monday and Tuesday in Brussels.

"We will be the best sponsors of Slovenia within the European Union, but first this problem must be resolved," Mr. Caputo said.

Slovenian Ambassador in Italy Marko Kozin said it was difficult for Ljubljana to accept such "preconditions," as it needed time to change former Communist laws to

allow foreign ownership in the country.

He asked Italy to "end its veto" linking the issue of EU association, saying Slovenia agreed to the principle of restoring Italian property and bilateral talks would continue.

Italy wants to see property that was nationalised by neighbouring Slovenia when it was part of the old communist Yugoslavia freed from its Italian owners. It also wants Italians to have access to their former property when it goes on sale by its current Slovenian owners.

"We are demanding a few old houses, rather than dollars," Mr. Caputo said.

A joint commission on the dispute is scheduled to meet next in Rome at the end of the month.

U.N., NATO assess options as Bosnia deadline nears

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — United Nations and NATO commanders met Saturday to assess their military options if Bosnia's warring Serbs and Muslims turn down the latest international peace plan.

U.S. Admiral Leighton Smith, commander of NATO-Southern Europe, and General Bertrand De Lapresle, U.N. Protection Force Commander in ex-Yugoslavia, convened for a planning session at the U.N. base at Zagreb Airport.

"It is a regular monthly meeting, NATO and the U.N. have a very close operational relationship. It's also a contingency planning session for implementing a possible peace accord or lack thereof," U.N. spokesman Paul Riskey said.

A United Nations spokesman reported a relatively low level of fighting across Bosnia during the night. The U.N. controlled airport serving the Muslim stronghold of Tuzla was targeted by four suspected tank shells Saturday morning.

In Sarajevo, United Nations officials expressed concern that Serb rejection of the peace plan could be followed by attacks on peacekeeping troops in Bosnia, most of whom are lightly armed and exposed to retaliation.

U.N. officials in Sarajevo said they were reviewing contingency plans to deal with everything from hostage-taking of U.N. personnel to attempts to retrieve weapons

from U.N. collection sites in the area around the capital.

"We appear to be heading down a road that's very unpredictable, but we have contingency plans for everything and we're reviewing them in light of changing circumstances," said a U.N. military officer in Sarajevo who asked not to be identified.

"If the Serbs turn down the (peace) plan we're likely to be challenged around Sarajevo and in the eastern enclaves. Within the limits of our mandate and our resources, we'll be ready."

After NATO warplanes bombed Serb positions around the town of Gorazde last April, Serb forces rounded up or blockaded a total of about 200 U.N. personnel in various locations in Bosnia. They were later released.

Even if the plan is accepted by the warring parties, the U.N. believes it will take two years to implement it.

"If the Bosnian warring factions accept the plan, it will take two years for its implementation," U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi said in an interview with the Zagreb daily Vecernji List, published Saturday.

NATO troops would have to monitor a front line that stretches for 1,000 kilometres across difficult terrain as well as ensuring that Serb forces pull back from about one third of the territory they currently hold.

Mr. Akashi declined to predict the outcome of sessions of the Bosnian Serb and

Muslim parliaments convened for Monday to debate the peace plan drawn up by the United States, Russia, Britain, Germany and France.

The big powers set a fast-approaching deadline of next Tuesday for the warring parties to respond to the peace plan.

The Muslim-Croat backed government in Sarajevo has reluctantly endorsed the deal, presented as a last-ditch "take it or leave it" package, while the Bosnian Serbs in nearby Pale have expressed serious reservations.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic was urged to accept the plan by British and French foreign ministers, Douglas Hurd and Alain Juppe, when they visited Bosnia last Wednesday.

But he refused to give it his backing in advance, saying the Bosnian Serb Assembly must decide. Since then, statements from Bosnian Serb leaders have generally indicated dissatisfaction with the plan.

In Zagreb, Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman signed a friendship pact.

Mr. Demirel was forced to cancel a visit to Sarajevo Friday because Serb forces ringing the city opposed the trip.

Instead he inspected Turkish U.N. troops in central Bosnia, their presence has angered the Serbs, who spent 500 years under Otto-

man rule.

Bosnian Serb forces have launched a tank, artillery and infantry assault on government troops near the Muslim-held Bihac enclave in the northwest of the country, a U.N. military spokesman said Saturday.

The Serbs launched artillery and infantry attacks in the Otoka region, northeast of the Muslim-held town of Bihac, on Friday in a bid to relieve pressure on the Grabez Plateau further down the line, said U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Major Dacre Holloway.

French Lieutenant-Colonel Michel Manach, who is based in Bihac, said by phone Saturday that 5th Corps government troops had captured at least one hilltop in the Grabez area.

Fighting north of Otoka Friday involved infantry assaults and shelling by artillery and tanks, he said.

An elderly woman, of German origin, living in the area of Otoka was killed Friday, Lt. Col. Manach said, adding that circumstances surrounding her death were not immediately known.

Fighting also continued in north of the country where they were 190 heavy weapon detonations in the Pozovina corridor, linking the western and eastern halves of Serb-held territory in Bosnia and in the Zavidovici area, near Mount Ozren, UNPROFOR spokesman Major Rob Annik said.

Murayama scraps Socialist no-military stance

TOKYO (R) — Socialist Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama will scrap his party's traditional policy of refusing to recognise Japan's military as constitutional.

Since the birth of Japan's post-war military in the aftermath of the 1950-1953 Korean War, the Socialists have said the so-called Self-Defence Forces violated the country's pacifist constitution.

Article nine of the 1947 document says Japan will not possess military forces nor use them to settle international disputes.

The Socialists' decision to switch policy was made in a

meeting late Friday between Mr. Murayama and top Socialist officials, party officials said.

Mr. Murayama, Japan's first Socialist prime minister since 1947, will formally announce the change in party platform in his inaugural policy speech to parliament Monday.

The party decided on the about-face because it was obvious Mr. Murayama, as prime minister and therefore commander-in-chief of the forces, would come under attack in parliament if the Socialists kept their basic tenet, the officials said.

Mr. Murayama was elected on June 29 to lead a fragile

conservative-leftist coalition, with cold-war arch rivals the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) as the largest group in the alliance.

During most of the cold-war period, the Socialists had claimed they would disband the military and pursue a policy of unarmed neutrality. In the late 1980s, however, they tilted towards a formal recognition of the military, saying the Self-Defence Forces were a "legal entity but still anti-constitutional."

This kind of confused logic fuelled criticism that the Socialists were unrealistic and not capable of governing. In 1992, the party fought a bitter parliamentary battle in

vain with the ruling LDP to scuttle a plan to send Japanese troops abroad as U.N. peacekeepers.

Now, the party has formed a hitherto unthinkable alliance with the LDP.

Last year when the Socialists first came to power in a shaky seven-party coalition, party leaders accepted a coalition platform to retain Japan's basic foreign and security policies.

But party Chairman Sadao Yamahana had vowed to keep the party's own, separate set of basic policies on the military and diplomacy. Mr. Yamahana took part in Friday's meeting with Mr. Murayama and other Socialist leaders.

War on drugs trying Colombian-U.S. relations

BOGOTA (R) — Colombia's threat to renounce future U.S. assistance in its fight against drug trafficking reveals how policy differences over the war on drugs have caused relations between the two countries to deteriorate.

The Colombian government's announcement late Friday that it was prepared to go it alone in its fight against the Cali cartel and other drug organisations appeared to be a sign of exasperation with the United States.

Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin warned that if the United States adopted an amended bill that proposed enforcing conditions on future drug aid to the country, her government would renounce any further coopera-

tion. "Colombia has never considered that this help grants any country or government the right to define the terms of our anti-drug policy," she said in a prepared statement just hours after the U.S. Senate voted unanimously in favour of the amendment to a foreign aid bill.

The vote appeared to be the latest manifestation of the U.S. government's disagreement with Colombia on the methods used in the drug war.

It has repeatedly expressed its disapproval of the ways in which Colombia has gone about fighting drug trafficking and has become increasingly reluctant to help.

It has criticised Colombia for giving unduly light prison sentences to drug traffickers who surrender and lambasted its chief prosecutor for promoting the legalisation of drugs as an alternative way to fighting those who don't.

The U.S. government has also insisted that the country make greater efforts to capture the leaders of the Cali cartel and demanded a thorough investigation into allegations that the new president accepted money from its members during his election campaign.

As a result, it has stopped giving Colombia evidence to help it build cases against drug traffickers as well as radar information to help it track down drug smuggling planes.

Earlier this week, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) abruptly cancelled a scheduled meeting with Colombia's police chief in Washington. The DEA said it did not know the chief had intended to make more than a courtesy visit and discuss policy differences over the war on drugs.

Colombian President Cesar Gaviria criticised the cancellation as a crude way of expressing disagreement with his government's anti-drug policy.

"We don't think disagreements or quarrels should be transmitted in ways of this nature," he said.

Mr. Gaviria has lashed out at international criticism of his government's fight against drug traffickers, saying no other country had sacrificed as many lives as his had.

Bomb blast in bus kills 6 in Kashmir

NEW DELHI (AFP) — At least six people were killed and 27 others injured Saturday when a powerful bomb exploded in a bus in Jammu, the winter capital of India's strife-torn Kashmir state, officials said.

Two people died instantly and four of the 31 injured succumbed to injuries in a hospital, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. The dead included a boy and four adults, and at least four of them were Hindus.

Two of those hospitalised were reportedly in serious condition.

The bomb exploded inside a minibus at a road crossing in the city's Sattari area, PTI said. Officials earlier said the explosion took place in a van.

The blast came two days after four persons were injured in a grenade explosion in Jammu.

Kashmir Governor K.V. Krishna Rao blamed "senseless elements" for the killings, and appealed to the people to keep calm. Previous deaths of Hindus in attacks by suspected Muslim militants has sparked Hindu-Muslim clashes.

Suspected Kashmiri Muslim militants have shot dead a police officer tasked with arranging security for a Hindu pilgrimage that has been "banned" by a guerrilla group, press reports said Saturday.

The killing followed state government assurances of tight security for the thousands of Hindus expected to travel next month to the holy Amarnath cave in the Kashmir Mountains.

Police inspector Shyamal Pandita, a Hindu officer supervising security arrange-

ments for the pilgrimage, was shot dead Friday by gunmen as he emerged from his office in the south Kashmir town of Anantnag. The Pioneer said. "The killing is being viewed as the first step towards sabotaging the yatra (pilgrimage)," the newspaper said in a dispatch from Srinagar, the Kashmir summer capital.

Harkat-ul-Ansar, a guerrilla group which has many Islamic mercenaries in its ranks, on July 6 announced a "ban" on the pilgrimage to Amarnath, located some 15,000 feet (4,554 metres) above sea level.

Thousands of Hindus from all over India journey every year to the cave which they believe to be the abode of Shiva, the Hindu god of destruction, covering the last 25 kilometres of the pilgrimage on foot, or on ponies.



Picture taken two weeks ago showing Karen Humphries holding her daughter Abbie before the baby was abducted in Nottingham's Queen's Medical Centre. Missing baby Abbie, snatched only four hours after her birth, was reunited with her family after police found the infant in a house barely a mile from where she was kidnapped (AFP photo)

Kidnapped newborn baby Abbie reunites with parents after U.K. police swoop

LONDON (AFP) — Missing baby Abbie Humphries, snatched only four hours after her birth, was reunited with her parents early Saturday after police found the infant in a house barely a mile from where she was kidnapped two weeks ago, police said.

The child was found before dawn "in suspicious circumstances" at an address in Nottingham, central England, less than a mile (less than two kilometres) from the Queen's Medical Centre from where Abbie was kidnapped, said a

police spokesman cited by British television newscasts.

A spokesman for the hospital said the baby was in "general good health."

Detectives heading a nationwide search for the newborn baby were understood to have swooped on the address after receiving a tip-off.

Three people are currently helping police with their inquiries.

Inspector David Gilbert told BBC Radio that police were "delighted" over the successful return of Abbie.

"There was a development during the early hours of this morning in the inquiry and as a result Karen and Roger Humphries have been reunited with their baby," he said.

"It is a very emotional time for them and no one is more delighted than the officers involved in the investigation," he added.

Taxi driver John Glover who was at the hospital around 3:00 a.m. when a fleet of up to 10 police cars suddenly arrived.



Japanese Astronaut Chiaki Mukai (left) makes a floating transition in the Microgravity Laboratory aboard the space shuttle Columbia as astronaut Rick Hieb (right) retrieves a

Astronauts fail to fix science appliance

JAPANESE CANAVERA, Florida (R) — Two astronauts doubled as appliance repairmen Friday as they tinkered for hours but failed to fix a balky heater needed for science experiments aboard the orbiting space shuttle Columbia.

Co-pilot Jim Halsell and payload Commander Rick Hieb took six hours — two more than had been originally allotted — to try to clear a

coolant line blockage and salvage three biotechnology experiments.

The Japanese-made appliance worked briefly, but then overheated again and shut down, NASA said late Friday.

A Canadian study of how weightlessness affects the shape and length of the spine was postponed a day to make time for the repairs in the crew's hectic schedule.

Mission scientist Robert Snyder explained, "the problem is bubbles, and bubbles are very tenacious in space." He spoke at a news conference.

About half the studies on this 63rd shuttle mission involve tests of gravity-free manufacturing processes. The other half are designed to see how fish, salamanders and other living creatures be-

have in the absence of gravity.

In a week, two Japanese red-bellied newts and at least 16 medaka minnows have hatched in small shuttle aquariums which astronauts tend at least twice a day.

Scientists are investigating how weightlessness affects adult spawning behaviour and the development of gravity receptors in the embryos.

Goodlad plays down cool reception from Chinese

BEIJING (AFP) — British Foreign Office Minister Alison Goodlad qualified Sino-British ties Saturday, as "very good," dismissing evidence of continued coolness on the part of his Chinese hosts.

Mr. Goodlad played down Foreign Minister Qian Qichen's denial Friday that Beijing had said the two countries could now begin cooperating on economic issues even if they were unable to work together over the British colony's political future.

Mr. Qian told journalists before entering talks with Mr. Goodlad that "comprehensive cooperation in all areas" was required if they were to work together after

two years of wrangling over electoral reform in Hong Kong, which reverts to China on July 1, 1997.

"The Chinese leaders have said on a number of occasions that political and economic matters should and will be kept separate, and I have no reason to disbelieve them," Mr. Goodlad said, reiterating that he had called for "past differences" to be put aside.

The British official — who has special responsibility for Hong Kong, South East Asia, Australasia and the Pacific — arrived here Thursday for a week-long visit, the first by a Foreign Office minister since Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's trip a year ago.

Jakarta to mark E. Timor annexation amid tension

DILI, Indonesia (R) — Indonesia Saturday prepared to mark the 18th anniversary of its formal annexation of East Timor amid religious tensions fuelled by the most violent confrontation between troops and protesters in three years.

Indonesia also "vetted" a U.S. Senate decision to curb small arms sales to the Jakarta government over the situation in East Timor. It said it would not accept any conditions for future arms sales from the United States.

East Timor's capital Dili was awash with the red and white Indonesian national flags along with multi-coloured banners hailing what Jakarta calls integration, 18 years ago.

"Long live East Timor," screamed a red banner stretched across the main road running past the local governor's office that faces the sea.

But despite the relative calm of Dili Saturday, residents feared more violence after riot troops Thursday fired tear gas and then broke up a protest march by 200 mainly Catholic demonstrators marching to the local parliament building.

"Tension is in the air. The situation is still tense," Azimindo Maia, vice rector for academic affairs at the East Timor University told Reuters.

About 20 people were injured, some seriously, and 4 others arrested — the most violent confrontation with troops since 1991 when 500 army forces shot and killed up to 200 people during a funeral procession at a Dili cemetery.

Since invading the eastern half of Timor in 1975, largely Muslim Indonesia has faced widespread resentment for its rule. The United Nations does not recognise Indonesia's rule over the former Portuguese colony.

The U.S. Senate, responding to calls to "send a strong message" in Indonesia on human rights, unanimously voted late Thursday to restrict small arms sales to Jakarta and also provide

money to human rights groups there.

Indonesia's Foreign Ministry spokesman Irawan Abidin told Reuters after the Senate vote: "We are indeed unhappy to hear this. However, it will only press us to look for other sources such as Great Britain for the procurement of small arms."

"We are sad because from the very outset we have said we will not accept any programme which is linked to conditions (over human rights)," Mr. Abidin said.

The measures were approved as amendments to a foreign aid measure under consideration by the Senate.

In Lisbon, Portuguese President Mario Soares has condemned what he called the brutality of the Indonesian government for its treatment of student demonstrators in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor.

Mr. Soares told the Express newspaper, published Saturday, that Thursday's attack on a demonstration which left up to 20 injured, demonstrates once again the brutality of the dictatorial Jakarta government and the repression which it does not hesitate to use against defenceless young people."

Mr. Soares said the U.S. Senate's unanimous vote to restrict small arms sales to Indonesia would draw attention to the violation of human rights in East Timor.

"But it is not just a question of disregard for human rights. It is about an illegal occupation, condemned by international law, and the inalienable right of the Timorese people to self-determination and independence," Mr. Soares said.

Portugal has demanded that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) be granted access to the injured protesters and has said it wants an investigation into the incident.

Red Cross officials said Friday they were investigating claims that up to four people had been killed during Thursday's clash. Indonesia denied the reports.

N. Irish extremists offer olive branch to IRA

BELFAST (R) — Protestant extremists waging a violent campaign to keep Northern Ireland British offered an olive branch to their IRA guerrilla enemies, pledging to lay down their arms if their foes did the same.

But within hours Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing fighting to end British rule in the province and unify it with the Irish Republic, condemned the offer as a sham.

In a statement issued in Belfast amid a spiral of violent attacks, the two main pro-British militant groups vowed to match any ceasefire declared by the Irish Republican Army — a condition for progress towards peace.

The Protestant extremist umbrella group, the Combined Loyalist Military Command (CLMC), said its operations to date had been a necessary military strategy.

"The CLMC deems it necessary to state categorically that should the Republicans cease hostilities then we will respond in order to accommodate civilised, magnanimous and productive dialogue," it said.

The Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) and the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) guerrillas said their offer was subject to Dublin keeping well out of affairs in the British province.

"Our on-going campaign is founded... firmly in defence of democracy and equality and in resistance to the imposition by force of arms, coercion or persuasion of an all-Ireland Republic," they said.

The pledge came as British Prime Minister John Major and Irish Leader Albert Reynolds decided in a meeting in Brussels to postpone a planned summit on peace efforts.

Three police officers and a Sinn Fein councillor from the Irish Republic they had arrested were hurt in the ambush.

Sinn Fein denounced the offer. "The loyalist death squads are demanding that Northern nationalists surrender our nationality," party Chairman Mitchell McLaughlin said.

"The loyalist death squads are not serious about peace," a statement said.

But John Hume, leader of the moderate nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, cautiously welcomed the move.

"Surely the time has come to recognise that we are unfortunately a divided people, and that violence has no contribution to make to solving that problem," he said.

"I certainly hope that it is an indication of a rethink." Although the pro-British extremists have issued such statements in the past, the offer comes at a sensitive time for a province riven by 25 years of strife.

Proposals for peace in a joint Anglo-Irish declaration last December offer Sinn Fein a place at talks on Northern Ireland's future if it gets the IRA to call a truce.

London and Dublin are still waiting for Sinn Fein's verdict and decided Friday to postpone a review of progress towards peace until later this year.

The UFF claimed responsibility for an overnight shooting that left a Catholic businessman fighting for his life in a Belfast hospital.

It followed the funerals of two Protestant militants gunned down by Republican guerrillas Thursday, and an attack Friday in which an unmarked police car was raked with gunfire.

Three police officers and a Sinn Fein councillor from the Irish Republic they had arrested were hurt in the ambush.

Quebeckers split on break-up from Canada

MONTREAL (R) — Quebec separatists have surged ahead in popularity with a provincial election due in the fall, but polls Friday showed Quebeckers were still divided on whether to break away from the rest of Canada.

According to the Leger poll of 1,003 Quebeckers, 51.2 per cent of decided voters would choose the separatist Parti Quebecois if an election were held today while 41.5 per cent would vote for the liberal party, which currently runs the province.

In the same poll last month, the gap was about five percentage points.

The Liberals, under Premier Daniel Johnson, must call a general election by November. The election is widely expected to be called next week for September.

However, the poll, with a 3 per cent margin of error, also shows that support for a separate Quebec has continued to

fall, with 46.5 per cent in favour and 53.5 per cent against. This is a slight change from last month when about 48 per cent favoured separatism and about 52 per cent were against it.

Jean-Marc Leger, president of the polling firm, said this confirms other surveys that show Quebeckers will choose the Parti Quebecois for a change after nine years of Liberal rule that have left a rising deficit and 13 per cent unemployment.

"They want to have a government that will take the province out of the recession, that will provide answers to the question of job creation," Leger told the Globe.

"That's been very clear in all polls that we have conducted over the past two years."

The poll also confirmed previous surveys that show Quebeckers are still not sure if a Parti Quebecois victory means an outright divorce from the rest of Canada.

Rwanda truce still not in place

KIGALI (R) — The United Nations was still waiting Saturday for official confirmation of a unilateral ceasefire promised by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF).

U.N. military analysts said the delay had probably been caused by the RPF's inability to capture a commando training school at Mutura, 25 kilometres outside the north-western town of Gisenyi.

Major-General Romeo Dallaire, the U.N. force commander, told Reuters: "We have heard nothing, absolutely nothing."

On Friday, U.N. special representative to Rwanda Shabazz Khan told reporters RPF Chief of Staff Major-General Paul Kagame had told him he was ready to call a ceasefire.

U.N. military analysts had hoped the truce would start from midnight (2200 GMT) Friday but said they received no call from the RPF.

"General Kagame assured us yesterday he would contact us before the end of the day," a senior U.N. official said Saturday.

Capturing Mutura seemed to be the main stumbling block.

It is the only remaining military base between the RPF and the line where they would halt their advance, five kilometres outside Gisenyi. Once Mutura has fallen, the analysts said a ceasefire would be possible.

U.N. officials confirmed Gen. Kagame had dropped all conditions for a ceasefire but said he had insisted "certain requirements be fulfilled after the ceasefire."

One official told reporters Gen. Kagame had accepted the U.N. Security Council's call for an unconditional ceasefire, agreeing that it was the only way to halt the panic-stricken wave of refugees fleeing Rwanda for

Zaire. But Gen. Kagame still wanted government forces disarmed and those responsible for the atrocities of the past three months brought to justice before an international war crimes tribunal.

Unless the government forces fulfilled those requirements within "a space of time" the ceasefire would crumble, the official added.

The official said Gen. Kagame appeared to be calling the shots both politically and militarily.

He said the general would become vice-president and minister of defence in the new cabinet due to be announced by Tuesday.

"The Ministry of Defence on its own does not carry enough prestige," the official said. "He (Kagame) appears to be the strongman now and he doesn't want too many engine drivers on the locomotive."

The name of the new president, the official said, should be known late Saturday or early Sunday. He believed the president would come from the majority Hutu tribe.

An estimated 500,000 people have been massacred and up to two-thirds of the population displaced since the civil war flared after President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a rocket attack on his plane on April 6.

Most of the dead were Tutsis and the mainly-Tutsi RPF launched an assault on the government to save their fellow tribesmen. In little over three months they have seized most of the country.

The RPF's advance on Gisenyi has triggered a tidal wave of refugees flooding out of Rwanda into Zaire. Up to 800,000 people are expected to leave the country ahead of the RPF advance.

Mr. Khan said the ceasefire would be monitored by

U.N. peacekeepers, a task he and Gen. Dallaire, said would not be easy.

Gen. Dallaire left Kigali for Goma in neighbouring Zaire Saturday to discuss the implementation of the ceasefire with the government forces chief of staff, Major-General Augustin Bizimungu.

The U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) prepared to fly emergency food supplies Saturday to more than half a million Rwandan refugees crammed into the Zaire border town of Goma amid warnings of an impending catastrophe from overstretched relief organisations.

WFP spokeswoman Brenda Barton said the plane, which was to take off from Uganda's Entebbe Airport carrying 35 tonnes of food, will be joined by another plane of similar capacity Sunday. The two will be able to make four runs a day to deliver between 300 and 400 tonnes of food to Goma daily.

The Saturday flight from Entebbe will launch a massive emergency airlift announced by WFP Friday aimed at meeting the most urgent needs of hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees fleeing the fighting and massacres that has wracked their country for more than three months.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, meanwhile, said it urgently needed \$62 million to be able to feed the refugees.

UNHCR spokesman Pano Mouniz told journalists here that 800,000 Rwandans would soon be in Goma. He said the organisation has asked for \$100 million and we have only obtained \$38. If we don't receive the rest immediately we will not be able to cope with the situation."

The UNHCR was expect-

ing Saturday to deliver 200,000 tonnes of food brought from Bukavu, 120 kilometres (74 miles) south of Goma. "This will allow us to feed 300,000 people for three days," Mr. Mouniz said.

He added that tarpaulins and blankets would be sent from Kenya, Britain, the Netherlands and Ethiopia. "The needs are huge," he said.

Mr. Mouniz added that the UNHCR was trying to drain refugees away from Goma to three sites north of the city, notably to Kibumba, 40 kilometres (25 miles) northwest which could handle 100,000 people.

"We are not planning to distribute food in town," he said.

Zaire's new government sent Deputy Prime Minister Malumba Mbanga to Goma Friday to assess the refugees' needs and announced it would send an unspecified amount of emergency aid to the Rwandans who began streaming into Zaire Wednesday.

Germany pledged Saturday a further \$300,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for its operation in Rwanda taking total German aid for the tiny central African nation to \$28 million since the ethnic war there broke out in early April.

Meanwhile, French troops deployed under Operation Turquoise rescued about 160 orphans from Rwanda Saturday, driving them to the safety of Zaire in a convoy of trucks.

The children broke into song and cheered and laughed when the four trucks with an escort of jeeps pulled out of the border town of Gisenyi and drove about one kilometre along roads milling with refugees to Goma in Zaire.

Ghali suggests 15,000 U.S.-led force in Haiti

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has recommended a U.S.-led military force for Haiti of about 15,000 combat troops to restore democracy if or when the military government leaves.

His report to the Security Council rejected earlier U.S. proposals that the United Nations should field a large peacekeeping force after the military leaves office.

Instead, he suggested a multinational or international force without a U.N. flag, such as the United States might organise with other nations in the Western Hemisphere.

Dr. Ghali's report fuelled speculation he was leaving the door open for Security Council endorsement of an American invasion of the Caribbean nation, such as approval for Desert Storm, when a U.S.-led force drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

He never mentioned the word invasion but he characterised the recommended force in terms that went beyond a council resolution asking for a report on peacekeeping operations after Haiti's military leaders leave office.

He said that he fully supported "the Security Council's wish to plan urgently for effective action to bring this situation to an end and restore the legitimate authorities."

One Security Council

source said that sentence was "pretty hard-hitting stuff" and appeared to have gone beyond the council's mandate in requesting the report.

He also noted that by turning down the option on a large United Nations force the United States would have to pay for any invasion operation as well as the bulk of the peacekeepers afterwards. Or it would have to persuade the Organisation of American States and others to make voluntary contributions.

Dr. Ghali said the United Nations might move in with several hundred peacekeepers after "a secure environment" had been established but emphasised he could not find the resources for a large combat force.

Diplomats also said Dr. Ghali did not want to put blue helmets on a U.N. force that would probably be composed mainly of troops from one country only — the United States.

But a U.S. official said he was "extremely pleased" with Dr. Ghali's comments, although the full report needed further study.

The White House is seeking congressional support for invading Haiti but may be forced to act without a green light from lawmakers, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Friday.

"We continue to have intense consultations with Congress on Haiti," Mr. Christopher said.

"But beyond that, I think

it's important to preserve the president's constitutional prerogatives, not the least of which because it may be necessary for him to act fairly promptly if United States citizens are placed in danger," he added.

The administration has repeatedly denied that an invasion to oust Haiti's military leaders is imminent. Vice President Al Gore went on

Canadian Television Thursday to urge that sanctions be given more time to work.

But the Pentagon announced Friday an invasion-control ship joining the navy fleet already off Haiti's shores and Deputy National Security Advisor Sandy Berger warned that the situation to the impoverished Caribbean nation was becoming dire.



A Haitian man holds his head as he waits for repatriation into Haiti on the dock at Port Au Prince. The U.S. Coast Guard returned 217 boat people after they were picked up at sea (AFP photo)

Italy's anti-graft magistrates quit posts

ROME (R) — Leading members of the elite pool of Milan magistrates heading investigations into Italy's graft scandals resigned Saturday in protest at a new law curbing their powers of arrest, the Italian news agency (ANSA) said.

The magistrates, including Antonio Di Pietro, who has become a folk hero for Italians because of the probes, told Francesco Saverio Borelli, the pool's chief magistrate, they were stepping down.

The decree prohibits magistrates from applying preventive detention in jail in cases of bribery and corruption — a measure that has been liberally applied in the two-year judicial assault on Italy's Tangentopoli (bribeville) scandal.

Declaring Friday that imprisonment had become almost the rule, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said the aim of the measure was to restore civil liberties.

The judges include Di Pietro, Piercamillo Davigo, Gherardo Colombo, Francesco Gerco and Elio Ramonini. All have said they would ask to be assigned to other

investigations on grounds of conscience.

Mr. Berlusconi, sharpening the battle lines with critical magistrates and his own coalition partners, pledged Saturday to ease further the state's powers of arrest in graft cases.

The media tycoon said in a statement a cabinet decree approved Wednesday which has led to hundreds of men and women being freed from prison should be amended to allow more suspects to leave preventive custody and return home to house arrest.

"I will be the first to ask for amendments — not aimed at restricting the granting of liberty but at increasing it," the statement said.

"No citizen should be imprisoned without first being convicted. In Italy, in the Second Republic, justice must return to being a model of civility," said the statement released in the Adriatic port of Trieste where Mr. Berlusconi is taking part in a summit of the 10-nation Central European Initiative.

Declaring Friday that imprisonment had become almost the rule, Mr. Berlusconi said the aim of the mea-

sure was to restore civil liberties.

Hundreds of people were freed from jails around the country Friday and Saturday.

One of the first prisoners to be released was former Health Minister Francesco De Lorenzo, who is suspected of plundering funds on the backs of the sick.

Early Saturday, a crowd of people gathered outside Naples' Poggioreale Prison, where Mr. De Lorenzo had been held since May, chanting "thief, thief" at the former health minister.

They spit at him and threw missiles at the police car that took him to his luxury villa in Naples' fashionable Posillipo neighbourhood where he will be held under house arrest.

Mr. De Lorenzo, a former Liberal who was health minister from 1989 to 1993, faces a string of charges including that he solicited huge bribes from drug companies to licence their products and took big rake-offs from an anti-AIDS campaign.

The preventive detention order against Mr. De Lorenzo cited 67 counts of criminal conspiracy, corruption and illegal party financing involv-

ing bribes totalling about seven billion lire (\$4 million).

The former deputy leader of the disgraced Socialist Party, Giulio Di Donato, also held in Poggioreale on corruption charges, went home Saturday to stay under house arrest.

Cabinet spokesman Giuliano Ferrara upped the stakes on Friday by declaring that the government would resign if the decree was kicked out by parliament, where Mr. Berlusconi's two main coalition partners have pledged to get it amended.

"If the government is slapped on the face on this act of courage and if it fails to obtain the support of the majority it's clear that the government will pack its bags," he said.

The federalist Northern League and the neo-fascist National Alliance, pillars of Mr. Berlusconi's coalition, both said they would seek amendments restoring the possibility of preventive detention for corruption suspects.

The decree is already in force but must be approved by parliament within 60 days to win a permanent place on the statute books.

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Right on edge over border

THE ISRAELI newspaper, the Jerusalem Post, on Friday quoted political sources in Jerusalem as saying that Jordan had exaggerated expectations of the possibility of achieving an immediate, far-reaching agreement on the issue of borders with Israel. The right-wing daily said that Israeli topography experts had said the British mandate border was never marked in the field, but only on a map, which leaves it open to interpretation.

The newspaper said that statements carried by the Jordanian media, saying that Israel is ready to relinquish all the territory that the Kingdom claims are baseless and only part of the Jordanian strategy for negotiations. It went further to say that the mandate borders show areas east of Jordan that should be on the Israeli side.

The Jerusalem Post was of course right to say that Jordan's negotiating strategy is to claim all the lands that Jordan believes is part of its territory. But while it may not be wise to enter into claims and counterclaims with a mouthpiece for the Likud Party, we think it appropriate to state that Jordan's main aim was and still is to have our borders with Israel fixed once and for all, thus ending any and all claims to the other country's territory.

It is not only in Jordan's interest to regain the 380 square kilometres that we regard as occupied territory. It is in Israel's best interest too to have all Arab countries recognise its borders with them. It is not Israel that is doing Jordan a favour by relinquishing control over Jordanian territory. Rather, it is Jordan that is giving peace a chance by being willing and ready to cut a comprehensive deal with the Jewish state.

Israel must realise that unless it has recognised borders that are guaranteed through a peace treaty as part of a fair, just and comprehensive settlement, then its borders will always be under question and insecure.

Based on this, Israel ought to come to Monday's meeting with a measure of goodwill much greater than that cited by the Jerusalem Post. What Jordan wants is for this process to lead to an honourable peace that future generations, Arab and Israeli, can live with and stick to.

On the other hand, Israel would do well to acknowledge Syrian and Lebanese sovereign rights over their own occupied territories. Then and only then can the peace that Jordan is seeking with Israel lead to the comprehensive peace that the Israelis claim to be seeking with all Arabs.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily said Saturday that the U.S. President Bill Clinton's announcement of a meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin came as no surprise because the King has already declared that he was ready to meet with Mr. Rabin should such a meeting contribute to helping the nation regain its rights in lands and water. The paper said that the King's acceptance of the invitation was closely linked to Jordan's commitment to the peace process and motivated by the idea of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The meeting at the White House on July 25 will constitute an important step on the way towards the fulfilment of the nation's long-sought objectives, added the paper. Speaking candidly before the Cabinet and members of Parliament earlier this month, the King announced his readiness to meet Mr. Rabin, and in an address to the Armed Forces senior commanders, the King was open and clear as to the coming mission, according to the paper. It said that in his talks, the King sought to reassure the nation and the Armed Forces that there can be no peace treaty without the restoration of the full rights of the Arab Nation.

TAWFIQ ABUL RUB, a guest columnist in Al Ra'i daily said world Zionism is moving towards peace with the Arabs in response to foreign pressure and not as a choice of its free will. For this reason, the battle for peace with Israel will not be less ferocious than war, and it requires tactics, preparedness and strenuous efforts, said the writer. Israel is not convinced that it should reach peace with the Arab countries and return their lands to them, particularly in view of the current disarray in Arab ranks, and therefore Israel is not sincere in its approach towards peace, added the writer.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Faneh

Royal speech to prepare the people

THE CANDID speech delivered by His Majesty King Hussein last week was a milestone and a turning point in the line of thinking of the mainstream Jordanians, both at the grassroots and the political elite level.

For the first time the leader prepared his people in a clearcut way for the forthcoming events by presenting the facts as they are. The message did not only get across, it also built a near consensus. The whole country is in the process of taking a crucial and irreversible decision to think the unthinkable and make peace with the adversary.

It became obvious that we cannot carry on for ever in a situation of no-war no-peace. Our national security was always threatened by a potential Israeli aggression, our western borders are simply a ceasefire line, substantial parts of our territories are occupied, our water is diverted. In a nutshell the status quo is not bearable.

Of course no one would raise objections because we shall recover our land and water, have our borders recognised and secured and extract the right of return for the displaced Palestinians still living in camps. This is not the point. The point is that these demands will not be granted for free. There is a price to be paid. The King told the people that the price consists in direct negotiations on Jordanian soil, a formal meeting between the King and the Israeli prime minister, the signing of a peace agreement and the normalisation of political and economic relations with the long time adversary.

Obviously, the price is high and the medicine is extremely bitter. The personal sacrifice of the King is not easy, but for the sake of the national security and the vital

interests of the Jordanian people the sacrifice is acceptable. In this economic column, I have to dwell a little bit on the economic side of the Royal speech, but it should be emphasised that the main thrust of the speech was political and national. There is no attempt to mask national concessions with economic benefits. There is no financial benefit that is acceptable for giving up national rights in land, water, sovereignty and solving the refugees problem.

Yet, the economic dimension of peace remains crucial. The speech stressed national security but did not overlook economic security. There is no sustainable economic prosperity under continuous threat, nor is there a real political independence without a sound economy.

The Royal speech highlighted the economic needs of Jordan, especially the water shortage, the heavy burden of foreign debt and the unfavourable investment climate, the main problems being unemployment, poverty and insufficient foreign exchange resources. Peace should result in the quality of life of the man in the street, otherwise it will not be a real or meaningful peace.

We shall not be surprised if certain politicians welcome the coming move in the peace process, but these politicians are not themselves convinced or able to put forward a convincing argument, they start from revisionist ideological convictions which became a liability and a burden on their minds. Ideologies are supposed to be formulated to serve the best interests of the country not the other way round. Those who will make objections because they do not really belong to Jordan and cannot care for its national interest should be ignored.

Pakistan's north unimpressed by decentralisation

By Jane Macartney
Reuters

GILGIT, Pakistan — Among the apricot orchards and snow-capped peaks of a land that inspired Shangri-La, discontent is brewing. The government of Pakistan, which controls these remote and disputed mountains along the border with China, is trying — belatedly the locals say — to introduce greater democracy.

But residents of the northern areas are unimpressed by Islamabad's latest scheme to delegate more powers to a locally elected council while leaving alone the constitutional status of an area declared a disputed region by the United Nations.

"The people of the northern areas want their (Pakistani) constitutional rights," said the Rani of Hunza, a member of the Northern Areas Council and wife of the ex-ruler, or Mir, of the former princely state renowned for its apricots.

"We want proper representation as part of Pakistan," she said.

Local residents routinely remind the Pakistani government that the area volunteered to join Pakistan in 1947 after declaring itself independent for just two weeks.

In 1947, a British soldier commanding the 600-strong Gilgit Scouts joined a revolt

in Kashmir to try to avert a bloody holy war, and prevented the disputed region's Gilgit Province from ceding to India.

"We voluntarily opted for Pakistan," said Hussain Shah, the leader of a united front of mainly Shi'ite groups in Gilgit. "But Pakistan has been hesitating for 40 years."

U.N. resolutions in 1948 and 1949 coupled the area with Kashmir, over which Pakistan and India have fought two of their three wars since independence and partition in 1947.

That means that if Pakistan were to absorb the northern areas, Islamabad would dilute its four decade-old demand for implementation of a U.N.-mandated plebiscite to allow the people of Kashmir to determine their own future.

"Pakistan must honour its international commitments and the status quo," said Pakistan's Minister for Kashmir and Northern Areas Mohammad Afzal Khan.

The package adopted last month by the cabinet of Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto enlarges the council from 16 to 24, endows it with legislative, financial and executive powers and appoints the federal minister for Kashmir and Northern Areas as its chief executive. Elections are due in October 1994.

"We have given them rights and status they should have been given 47 years ago," Afzal Khan said. "But we cannot touch the constitutional aspect."

Some residents say the reforms do not go far enough, others complain they go too far.

The division runs along religious lines, further enforcing the often violent sectarian antipathy between majority Shi'ite Muslims and minority Sunni Muslims in the area.

"This package does not meet our basic demands to define our identity and constitutional position," Mr. Shah said. "With the current ambiguity we are deprived of all kinds of rights... but this is an initial step to solve our chronic problems."

Mr. Shah, the Mir of Hunza who represents the Ismaili Muslim followers of the Aga Khan, and most Shi'ites insist the Northern Areas become a province of Pakistan with direct representation to the national assembly (lower house).

"We are demanding that if this is a disputed area, then provisionally they could make it a province," said Altaf Hussain, chairman of the Gilgit Bar Association, adding that no legal barriers exist to prevent such action.

"De facto this is a province," he said. "But the government is afraid to declare it one."

In the mountains of Hunza, Ismaili shepherds are just as eager for integration with

Pakistan. "This package is a step forward," said goat herder Sifuddin. "But we want our rights, representation in the national assembly." His wife nodded her assent.

Sunnis disagree. They want to be part of Sunni-majority Kashmir.

"This package comes with mala fide intent (bad faith) to separate these areas," said Sardar Rasool Mir, leader of local Sunni religious parties. "We want these areas merged with (Pakistan-held) azad (free) Kashmir."

Rasool Mir and his allies have been lobbying in Islamabad, writing to President Farooq Leghari to demand repeal of the package, and threatening a boycott of the elections, by Sunnis — 35 per cent of the Northern Areas' population.

"Already unfortunately there is religious polarisation," Mr. Afzal Khan said. Sunnis and Shi'ites regularly hurl hand grenades into each other's mosques in Gilgit, where the two sects are mixed in greater numbers than anywhere else in the Northern Areas.

Before the 1988 elections, a pitched Shi'ite-Sunni battle over an electoral dispute on a plain outside Gilgit left 250 dead and more than 400 injured, officials said.

"These elections in October will be peaceful," said Northern Areas Chief Commissioner Mahmood Khan.

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Now it's the Democrats' turn to be hawks

By Walter R. Mears
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — This time, the hawks tend to be Democrats and liberals, ready for U.S. military intervention now or soon to oust the generals running Haiti. What's more, they're arguing that President Clinton should act on his own, one Democrat saying he need not be guided by Congress or public opinion.

That is no small role reversal after two decades of congressional efforts to rein the war-making power of presidents.

On Haiti, Republicans tried, unsuccessfully, to require that Mr. Clinton get congressional clearance before any military action. Now their leaders argue that the military option shouldn't be foreclosed, but it shouldn't be used either.

While that's a switch, there is political logic to it with a Democrat in the White House. And the inconsistency is bipartisan anyhow. When William Gray III, Mr. Clinton's special envoy to Haiti, was reminded on a TV talk show that he and other liberal house members once opposed U.S. action against leftist dictatorships in Central America, he said his advice to the president is "based upon where we are in the Western hemisphere in 1994, not '84, not '74."

The broader war powers issue went beyond party lines when Congress tried to define its role in the era of undeclared conflicts. That hasn't been done yet; the war powers resolution, enacted 21 years ago overriding a Republican veto, was meant to create a workable system, but it hasn't.

Mr. Clinton was as firm as his Republican predecessors in telling Congress not to unduly infringe on his presidential power to use U.S. forces when American interests are threatened.

He did so nine months ago, in blunting a Senate Republican attempt to require advance congressional approval should he decide to send troops to Haiti.

"Successive administrations have found it critical in world affairs to be able to state that no option has been ruled out," he wrote at the time.

Translated out of the diplomatic, that means presidents want to be able to threaten military action and make it believable. Mr. Clinton has been trying to do so on Haiti since 1993 as the administration seeks to oust the military regime there and restore the elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

He still is. "It certainly validates the position we've taken so far that that's an option we wouldn't rule out," Mr. Clinton said Monday after the Haitian regime ordered international human rights monitors out of the country.

Intervention ought to be Mr. Clinton's call alone, according to two leaders of the congressional Black Caucus, which has been pressing for tougher steps. "I don't think that the Congress or popularity polls of people in the United States should guide what the president does," Rep. Charles Rangel, a Democrat, said in a TV interview. In another, he said invasion should not be a subject on which "we take polls and ask whether Americans or the Congress wants to put our boys and girls in harm's way."

The Caucus chairman, Rep. Kweisi Mfume, another Democrat, said invasion should be the last option, and one left "fully up to the president." Mr. Mfume said other options include a naval blockade or air strikes.

Sen. Bob Graham, a Florida Democrat, said the administration should try to push the military government out with economic sanctions for another 30 days and then either admit that it can't be done or move to the threat and possible use of military force. He said he doubted the sanctions would suffice.

In Florida, there's concern about a possible refugee flood that would worsen an already costly problem. Mr. Rangel pointed to Grenada, Panama and Iraq as precedents for the use of U.S. force in recent times.

Those earlier invasions were under Republican presidents. The Gulf war against Iraq has fought with the congressional approval George Bush sought but said he didn't really need because he had the power to act as commander in chief.

Clinton support for Germany makes Kohl uneasy

By Tom Heneghan
Reuters

BERLIN — U.S. President Bill Clinton has raised Germany's profile so high during his two-day whirlwind tour, that even Chancellor Helmut Kohl appears uneasy at the new altitude.

In Bonn on Monday and Berlin on Tuesday, Mr. Clinton issued what must be the most sweeping statements of support that Germany has heard in the post-war era.

He named Bonn as the main U.S. ally in Europe, pushing Britain's fading "special relationship" into the background, and showed no fear of the ghosts from Germany's past that still haunt many of its neighbours.

When Mr. Clinton then went even further in Berlin on Tuesday, saying Germany could fight in a future United Nations mission like the Gulf war, Mr. Kohl had to break in to put a damper on the rising expectations.

"It is not as if a new mood has broken out that says 'Germans to the front' the Chancellor was quick to make clear to a joint press conference with Mr. Clinton. "When and where Germany gets involved will be decided in Germany."

Mr. Kohl, who has scheduled several foreign policy events to help his campaign for reelection in October, appeared just as concerned with calming his voters as his neighbours.

While he insists Germany must play a stronger role in the world, Mr. Kohl has made little of it on the campaign trail because, as his strategists say, there are few votes to be won in telling Germans their sons might have to die abroad



A BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE
SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP
— PART TWO —
— © Steve Ball 1994 —

again.

He also clearly feels the Americans are not just flattering him but making undisguised demands for help in leading the Western world in the post-cold war era.

"Oh, it's all very lovey-dovey, very warm, but underneath is an undercurrent of a demand," one Bonn diplomat said.

"It means the Germans have to do more, both in out-of-area missions and in leading help for Eastern Europe. Washington has high hopes that Germany will lead a drive to get the European Union (EU) to help Eastern Europe more."

Mr. Clinton's visit coincided with a German sup-

reme court ruling on Tuesday morning that Bonn could deploy troops in multinational military missions if its parliament approved.

The legal green light for a more active military role, something Mr. Kohl has sought since unification in 1990, was bound to raise the question of how assertive Bonn would become.

Mr. Clinton's sweeping support for a more self-confident Germany heightened the immediacy of this question, which has worried Bonn's neighbours ever since the Berlin wall burst open under the pressure of pro-democracy protests in 1989.

"We are going to have considerable problems with this new partnership," commented Arnulf Baring, a historian at Berlin's free university.

"Until now, we have always said 'we don't want to lead, we can't lead, the Americans should lead,'" he said.

"Now a lot of pressure is on the Germans to define what they can do and want to do and what not."

Another diplomat noted that Mr. Clinton put Mr. Kohl into a corner by coming out and urging him to implement a policy that Germany has had problems with in recent years anyway.

After paying out billions to Moscow for supporting German unity, Mr. Kohl has been trying in vain to convince his EU partners to

boost their aid to the East dramatically.

But none of the other 12 seems as alarmed by the continued problems in the ex-Communist region as Germany, which sits on the EU's eastern frontier, and the last superpower, the U.S.

Mr. Clinton, the first American leader born after World War II, was so effusive in his support for Germany that even German journalists warily asked if he did not feel a bit uneasy about the idea of Germans marching abroad again.

"I have great confidence in the larger purposes and direction of this country," Mr. Clinton, the first U.S.

leader born after World War II, said at the start of his visit.

"Anything that can be done to enable Germany to fulfill the leadership responsibilities that it is plainly capable of fulfilling is a positive thing," he told journalists as Mr. Kohl stood by smiling.

Mr. Clinton also urged Germany to send troops to fight in United Nations missions like the Gulf war.

"I am completely comfortable with that," Mr. Clinton announced. "Of course, I can envision German forces getting involved in something like the United Nations effort in the Gulf."

Acre — a city of the past, a message for the future

By Mariam M. Shabin
Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

ACRE — Waves and a clean blue sea, old crusader-built walls and Arab faces mark the landscape of this northern city of Palestine.

Like a window on the past Acre streets are still predominantly made of cobblestones. It's men are mainly fishermen, a vocation handed down through generations.

Despite vigorous efforts by the Israeli government to settle Jews in Acre, the city is still mainly Arab, although Jewish immigrants, who began settling the city in 1948, have done their best to encourage the Arabs to leave the shores of this famous city.

Throughout history, no less than two dozen civilisations landed on and conquered Acre's seashore. The city was visited by such renowned historical personalities as Marco Polo, Francis of Assisi and Napoleon Bonaparte. It was the capital of the Crusaders in the 11th century and is historically considered the main point of "entry" into Palestine. Historians believe that Saladin's greatest mistake in his war against the Crusaders was when he stopped short of expelling them from Acre, which they used as a launching base to fight the Muslim armies.

According to Israeli tour books, contemporary Acre is a city of Arab-Israeli co-existence. Arabs speak romantically of the "beautiful port city, where Arabs still live."

But for all those who believe that "co-existence", rather than a parallel existence, between Palestinians

and Israelis is an ideal solution to the century old conflict between the two peoples, visiting this Arab town may be an unexpected shock.

Today, the old, or Arab, city of Acre exists parallel to the new, almost exclusively, Jewish, Israeli city. The two Acre's reflect the sad "co-existence" of an obviously oppressed minority and an insecure majority living side by side.

Before the creation of Israel, Acre was predominantly an Arab city with a 10 per cent Jewish population. Now, the numbers are almost reversed with Jews constituting about three quarters of the city's residents.

Admiring the fabulous ruins of what were undoubtedly great civilisations, one is struck by the miserable conditions of those living in them today.

The Arab part of Acre is in a state of disintegration — the place is physically falling apart. The old city, where several thousand Arab families live, needs Israeli government permission to improve its infrastructure. No sewage, no water purification, no electrical infrastructure are readily available; the Israeli government does not give permits to construct such facilities.

The Arab population lives "on the edge" as one resident put it. Acre's indigenous inhabitants, many of whom fled the fighting in the city in 1948 and became refugees in villages of the Galilee or in Lebanon, have mostly moved out.

Those that did not flee the fighting in the city and stayed behind fared as badly as those who had left, or worse still.

"People do not get per-



Acre: A window on the past (Photo by Mariam M. Shabin)

mits to expand their homes to build sewage systems, to have access to clean water and proper electricity — so the well-to-do and middle class moved out to areas where such services are easily available," said Abu George, a local restaurant owner and a native of Acre.

Local Arab residents say that the Israeli government forced people to move out by denying them the right to improve basic living conditions. Furthermore, in it's

ongoing efforts to rid Israel of it's Arab population, the Israeli government evicted the Arab populations of half a dozen Arab villages around Acre, claiming the villages' lands were needed for state use.

The villagers, some 7,000 of them, were told to live in Acre's old city. Thus the already under-facilitated Arab neighbourhoods in Acre had to share the already sparse communal

facilities with the new comers. Improvement of living facilities has consistently been denied the Arab population by the Israeli authorities.

A classic case of "taxation without representation" is what Arab residents call it. Palestinian residents of Acre, or Arab Israelis as they are known, believe that Israel's goal is to encourage people to move out of the old city make it "free of Arabs" and create a

touristic city. Tourists come to Acre in large bus loads. The tour guides are always Israelis, since the tourist licensing board is very selective when it comes to who shows the tourists around.

Serge, the tour guide for a group of French visitors explains to the tourists that the Arabs are "a bit dirty and haven't done enough to keep up the old city but that was a fact of life Israel had

to live with." Patting Abu George on the back he says, "but this is a democratic country and while Abu George and I fought against one another in past wars we are now friends."

Serge looks at Abu George and says to him in a Hebrew accented Arabic "you should be happy I don't charge for all the advertising I do on your behalf."

Socially, the Arabs of Acre, as many Arabs who stayed Acre in and eventually became citizens of Israel, have had to go through the psychological trauma of being cut off from the rest of the Arab World and be regarded as fourth class citizens in the state that they became citizens of.

"There was a lot of rejection on the part of the Arab population," says Mariam Miri, who heads the Acre Women's Association.

"People wanted to have nothing to do with the 'Jewish masters', so they reacted by not sending their daughters to school and forbidding any sort of change."

According to Ms. Miri, who is one of the most prominent Palestinian-Israeli women activists, it was only after 1967 when Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza that the Arabs of Israel began adapting forms of modernity. The connection with the other Arabs in the occupied territories was a psychological relief, we were no longer alone, progress, socially and educationally, began.

But still, says Miri, the Arabs of Acre feel that they have been forgotten by the Arab World. "We were called traitors because we accepted to carry Israeli

passports. No-one considered that we were steadfast and loyal to the land."

Most of the city's Arab residents work as merchants and fishermen, the latter being threatened by an Israeli government plan to limit fishing in Acre.

Jewish residents work mostly as merchants or tourist guides.

The neighbourhoods of the two peoples are generally separated with Jews living in some quarters and Arabs, both Muslims and Christians, living in others.

Strangely, one finds, when looking at the newer Jewish quarters of the "new Acre" that for all their efforts to make life hard for the Arabs, the Israeli government has not done that much to make life pleasant for its own people. Like many Israeli cities, the new part of Acre looks like it was built overnight and as if the lowest cost building material was used. The look is that of a modern shantytown.

The romantic beauty of Acre is felt only in poems written by exiled Palestinians and paintings like those of the Paris-based Palestinian artist Nasser Soumei.

A recreated window he found in the alleys of Acre was used by Mr. Soumei to create a frame for a painting of Acre. All around the painting hang blue notes on a clothes line.

"They are messages from the people of Acre," says Mr. Soumei of the blue notes. "Messages to let the people of the future know that we were once here and that this was once a great and beautiful place — a beautiful city in Palestine."

Government tobacco regulation-burden or free ride?

By David Lawsky
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Government regulation is in the eye of the beholder, at least when it comes to tobacco.

From the perspective of the tobacco industry, government regulation of cigarettes is perhaps the most burdensome in America. But seen from the perch of government agencies and anti-smoking forces, tobacco has virtually escaped regulation.

The outcome of a tug-of-war over the public and congressional perception on the issue will help determine whether or not there is a major government crackdown on cigarettes by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

FDA Commissioner David Kessler told a House energy and commerce health subcommittee last month his agency is considering the regulation of tobacco as a drug and asked Congress for guidance.

Brown and Williamson Tobacco Co. CEO Thomas Sandefur, anxious to forestall health regulation by the FDA, told the same committee a few days later his industry is already "probably the most heavily regulated in U.S. commerce."

But the heads of two U.S. agencies have denounced Sandefur's testimony as "totally bogus" and "inaccurate in the extreme."

Speaking under oath, Mr. Sandefur — whose company is a unit of British-American Tobacco — listed nine federal government entities he said "regulate tobacco products or have issued reports that have the same impact as regulation."

"It has been contended, and I quote, 'tobacco products are the nation's least regulated consumer products, with tobacco products being exempt from every major health and safety law.' Nothing could be farther from the truth," testified Mr. Sandefur.

That brought a rebuke from Ann Brown, chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, one of the agencies cited by Mr. Sandefur.

"Nothing could be farther from the truth than Mr. Sandefur's comments," she said in an interview. "They are inaccurate in the extreme. Our enabling legislation spe-

cifically disallows us to have any jurisdiction over cigarettes."

She said the commission and the National Institute of Standards and Technology studied the feasibility of manufacturing a "fire-safe" cigarette, finding that one could be manufactured that would cause fewer fires.

Ms. Brown said the study made at congressional direction "has no force of law or regulatory power." She said passage of a pending bill would let her agency require fire-safe cigarettes.

Mr. Sandefur also lists the Department of Health, and Human Services, which contains the Centers for Disease Control's Office on Smoking and Health. But Michael Eriksen, director of the office, characterised Mr. Sandefur's statements about government regulation as "totally bogus."

"We have no regulatory authority at all over the tobacco industry," he said in a telephone interview from his office in Atlanta. "The only thing we can require the industry to do is submit lists of ingredients to us."

Mr. Eriksen, whose office is charged with serving as a clearinghouse on tobacco and health, said Mr. Sandefur had mischaracterised the role of other agencies as well.

"I think that's totally misleading to say that tobacco is heavily regulated," he said.

Other agencies Mr. Sandefur listed have narrow jurisdiction. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms collects taxes on tobacco. The surgeon general and Environmental Protection Agency issue reports on tobacco and the Federal Trade Commission tests cigarettes for tar and nicotine content on puffing machines.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is considering a rule to ban smoking in the workplace, except in special rooms ventilated to the outside, but no hearings will be held until September.

The Department of Agriculture provides crop insurance, tobacco grading and research, with many of those services paid for directly by the industry.

Said Scott Ballin, chairman of the Anti-Smoking Coalition on smoking or health: "That kind of regulation is there to serve the industry, not the public health. I would be glad to see it ended."

King-Rabin meeting a clear demonstration of movement to energise the peace process

WASHINGTON — Following is the official transcript of the July 15 background briefing at the White House following Secretary of State Warren Christopher's news conference.

SR. ADMIN. OFFICIAL: Why don't I offer a little context. Let me make a couple of observations. One is about the significance of the event, and the other is to give you a little bit of the flavour of the background to it, and then we'll take your questions.

I think you have to look at this as another major event that symbolises, as the secretary was saying, a transformation of the landscape of the Middle East. Here you have a dramatic meeting, again, in the tradition of President Sadat, and then last year Chairman Arafat meeting here with Prime Minister Rabin, but also now King Hussein meeting with Prime Minister Rabin here as well.

If I would characterise in a general way this particular track as opposed to some others, I would say on this track, rather than following the traditional pattern of a treaty and then normalisation, this is a track where you see the signs of normalisation and then a peace treaty.

It has emerged from, as the president and the secretary said, the trilateral of earlier in the month and then the president's meeting here with the King. One of the things that clearly occurred at the time of the King's meeting with the president was that the King was saying publicly, and the president was emphasising the value we saw in it, of having a meeting between the King and the prime minister as another clear demonstration of movement as a way to energise and accelerate the process between the two.

You'll recall at the time of the trilateral that one of the things that emerged was not only an agreement between the two of them to have a series of subgroup meetings on bilateral issues, ranging from border security, energy and environment, to a series of trilateral meetings also in the region that would deal with such questions as developing the master plan for the development of the Jordan Rift Valley — which gets you into a whole variety of different kinds of economic forms of cooperation or being able to develop the

minerals of the Dead Sea and the whole area between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea; cooperation on developing a mechanism in civil cooperation on civil aviation; building a road that would connect Jordan with Israel and Egypt; developing a national, trans-border national park; and developing tourism as well, overcoming the impediments to tourism.

These represent concrete forms of cooperation on the trilateral — work through the trilateral mechanism, but also reflect concrete forms of cooperation between the two of them. And what the secretary will be doing on this trip, at least on this particular trip, is helping, again, to focus on the particular content, which then again, they'll have further discussions on when they're here. And we would look to the work of the trip, helping to set the stage for what emerges from the summit meeting when it takes place.

So, just one last observation. I think you have to look at this as — not as a snapshot, but again, in perspective. If you go back a year ago, few people would have been predicting that we would be where we are today in the Middle East or that you would be seeing an event like this, and I think you have to see the event in the context of what it represents — a continuing move towards normalisation, a continuing demonstration, frankly, of acceptance of Israel and the region as a very normal part of this landscape.

Do you want to add anything?

Senior Administration Official: I just thought you might be interested in a quick tick-tock of the Jordan-Israel-U.S. negotiations.

You'll recall that Sep. 14, the day after the signing of the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles, over in the State Department the heads of the Jordanian-Israeli delegation signed their Common Agenda. On October the 1st of last year, you may recall that the president hosted a trilateral meeting between Crown Prince Hassan, Shimon Peres, himself in the Oval Office. That was after the donors conference that we held that morning in the State Department.

In January, King Hussein came here and talked to the president about his interest in moving forward in the negotiations. And of course, as — (inaudible) — mentioned — May when they announced —

in June?

Senior Administration Official: June 6th and 7th when they announced agreement between them to move the negotiations to the region. Those negotiations will begin next week July 18th, between the heads of the Jordanian and Israeli delegations on the border between Jordan and Israel.

One June 22nd, King Hussein came back to Washington. The president talked to him again, and particularly they discussed Jordan's requirements as it moved forward in the peace process with a particular focus on debt forgiveness, as the secretary of state has mentioned.

And then, of course, the next event will be the July 20th meeting between the secretary of state, the foreign minister of Israel and the prime minister of Jordan in Jordan at the Dead Sea Hotel followed by the crowning achievement of the July 25th summit here in Washington.

Q: You know, the secretary naturally enough, tried to keep expectations down by saying this wouldn't be a peace treaty signing. But, after all, you've got a trip to the region and you have them coming here. You don't know, do you, that events cannot just move so quickly that there wouldn't be a peace treaty signed here?

Q: Could it take off?

Senior Administration Official: No, I don't think you can do it that quickly because a peace treaty is not just a piece of paper that you slap together. It has to be something that you negotiate and that works through all the various details that are going to be embodied in a peace treaty.

The fact is, one of the things — if you recall, back on June 6th and 7th at the end of that trilateral — one of the things that we announced is that, when they got together again in July in the Jordan, and as it turns out, in Jordan and Israel, they would begin the process of negotiating in the subgroups on a series of the bilateral issues.

Now, they haven't yet gotten together to do that. They will begin that on Monday. And they have at least five groups and quite possibly eight they are going to begin to work on together where they will begin to work through a whole series of issues that I already enumerated. And as they come to agreements in those areas,

those will form building blocks of a peace treaty that will emerge.

But if they're only starting on Monday, and they're going to have to work these things out in some detail, you're not going to move that quickly.

Q: Quickly, you referred to meetings in Israel and Jordan, are you going to be — and the original scenario was more spread out. You're going to be able to squeeze in a Christopher meeting with Jordan and Israel both in Jordan and in Israel in that week?

Senior Administration Official: I don't — you will not have — you won't have both of those taking place in that timeframe. They will have their bilaterals that will begin on Monday. On Wednesday there will be a trilateral.

Q: Where in that case? Is that on the Israeli side or the Jordanian side?

Senior Administration Official: It'll be on the Jordanian side.

Q: Alright. But then you can't make the — the second one was to have been the next week. So, you won't be able to squeeze it in. Will you?

Senior Administration Official: Right. We now have a major event that is going to take place in place of that. But they'll know, you have an acceleration of this process, and the embodiment of the acceleration is not just that for the first time you're going to have a large official Israeli delegation headed by a senior Israeli official meeting in Jordan, but then you're going to have the King and the prime minister meeting here the following Monday.

Senior Administration Official: Let me just add one point on this. The July 25th event here is not just an event. It is a series of substantive meetings between the president, King Hussein and the prime minister, as well as between the prime minister and King Hussein. So there will be some substantive discussions and negotiations going on as well.

Q: The King has not been noted in the past for getting too far ahead of the Arab consensus. Do you have any indication that he will be prepared to sign a peace treaty whenever it's ready before some major breakthrough in the Syrian track?

Senior Administration Official: I can't tell you when he'll be prepared to sign a peace treaty. What we have here is a very clear commit-

ment to move in a way that is not in the shadows; to move in a way that is in the daylight; that is tied, as we both just said, to a very wide spectrum of concrete issues, concrete projects, and tangible developments.

Now, you know, exactly when all of that will be concluded in a peace treaty, I can't predict at this point or say exactly when he'll be prepared to conclude it, but all I'm saying is that we are obviously seeing a set of behaviours that reflect a new reality.

Q: Is the signing of a peace treaty at all contingent on progress on the Syrian track or the Palestinian track? Have the Jordanians made clear that there is no linkage?

Senior Administration Official: I think those are questions that are best directed to the Jordanians. When the King was here — who was many times asked about that question — and one of the things he said was Jordan will make Jordan's own decisions.

Q: Can you tell us about the speech to the joint session? Is that going to be technically a joint meeting of Congress? Is it in the afternoon? Will they both speak one after the next, side by side? How is that going to work?

Senior Administration Official: We're still working out the details in consultation with the leadership in Congress. I've been told that we can't give you any of those details at the moment.

Q: Is it generally seen that there'll be a meeting at the White House with Clinton, then they'll go to the Hill, and then they'll come back for some kind of state or formal dinner?

Senior Administration Official: Well, the exact timing of the session with Congress has not yet been tied down. But it will be in the time frame of the 25th, 26th.

Q: But both of them will appear at the same time before Congress?

Senior Administration Official: That is correct. It's both — well, I would expect it will be a trilateral appearance, a joint trilateral appearance — that is, the president, King Hussein and the prime minister.

Q: Was the president — **Senior Administration Official:** We're still trying to work out the details.

Q: Could you put some meat on the bones of the sort of vague assurances on the debt relief that the United States is prepared to give

Jordan, and also on the military equipment we're going to sell to them? Does that include the jet fighters they've wanted for so long?

Senior Administration Official: I can't put meat on the bones on either issue at this time. What we've made very clear is that we are sensitive to their economic needs. We are going to do the best we can to respond to their economic needs. We are aware of their security concerns and security needs, and, here again, we'll be doing the best we can.

But we're going to have to work those out with them. We're going to have to engage in discussions with them which will allow us to work these things out. And obviously we'll have to consult very intensively with the Congress as well when we get to that point.

Q: This is U.S. debt or this is international debt that you are discussing?

Senior Administration Official: Well, obviously, they're interested in having their overall debt burden relieved. And we have been working internationally with other creditors, and obviously, our own view is that one way to have an impact on others is also to demonstrate what you're prepared to do on a bilateral basis.

Q: What is the size of the debt?

Senior Administration Official: The book figure of the debt is a little bit under \$700 million.

Q: Is that to the U.S.?

Senior Administration Official: That's U.S. debt, yes.

Q: There's another figure of \$900 million.

Senior Administration Official: The book figure is \$700 million. What the current value of it is yet to be determined.

Q: And there's another figure floating around of \$900 million. Does that include commercial —

Senior Administration Official: The figure that's floating around that the Jordanians use is the way that they count it, but we count it differently. So it's the same debt, it's just a question of how it's counted.

Q: In the military improvement, are you also considering giving permission for them to sell their F-5s?

Senior Administration Official: That is not something we've dealt with yet.

The press: Thank you.

Greenspan says U.S. deficit could hurt 'ideal' times

WASHINGTON (R) — Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan Friday said the United States is experiencing "ideal" economic times but warned that future prosperity was jeopardising the country's still huge budget deficit.

"The U.S. economy has recently been experiencing the ideal combination of rising activity, falling unemployment and slowing inflation," Mr. Greenspan told a bipartisan commission on government spending and tax reform.

But he made clear that the country must not let good economic times create an atmosphere in which policy makers take the view that the deficit, despite some recent improvement, is no longer a critical problem.

"We cannot let this good behaviour lul us into neglecting the underlying problems of our economy," Mr. Greenspan told lawmakers.

The central banker said the impact of the deficit is pervasive and continues to keep long-term rates higher than they would be, adversely making it more expensive to finance the red ink itself.

"Long-term interest rates are higher now because markets are anticipating rising deficits in the next century," Mr. Greenspan said.

At the same, he said he detected a dramatic shift in the public's attitude toward the deficit and a willingness to make the hard choices necessary in bringing the economy more into balance.

"I hope and really do believe



Alan Greenspan

(that progress will be made)," Mr. Greenspan told the commission, adding that improvement will show up in the levels of interest rates.

But Mr. Greenspan made it clear that the United States really has no choice but to deal with the deficits since eventually they will produce economic instability and very hard times.

"There is no alternative to scaling back growth in federal spending if we are to avoid growing deficits as we move into the next century," he said.

Mr. Greenspan dodged questions about tax policy and specific revenue cuts, saying as he has in the past that such choices are political in nature and he would rather not add his voice to the debate.

At the same time, he said the deficit in the years ahead is mostly the creature of health care costs, expected to balloon as American society increasingly ages.

Greece obtains \$17.4b for modernisation

ATHENS (AFP) — The European Union (EU) agreed Friday to provide Greece with 13.98 billion ECUs (\$17.4 billion) by the end of the century to modernise roads, ports, water supplies and other structural assets.

The commission of the EU and Greece signed the agreement, the second of its kind, for the period 1994-99 here on Friday.

EU Regional Development Commissioner Bruce Millan said that the funding would develop the economy and improve links between Greece and the main European arteries.

The Greek deputy minister for the national economy, Georges Roumou, said that the funds, amounting to 4.8 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), would lead to the creation of more than 100,000 jobs.

Once all transfers, including those related to agriculture, were taken into account, Greece would receive 35 billion ECUs.

Various infrastructures, roads, ports, water supplies, the renovation of monuments and technical training are among items earmarked to receive some of the aid.

Greek interests in the public and private sectors are to provide joint financing amounting to 18 billion ECUs.

The commissioner said that a memorandum of understanding had been included in the arrangement to deal with delays or costs exceeding budgets which had occurred frequently under the previous arrangement.

Geneva seen favoured as site for new trade body

GENEVA (R) — After a bruising backstage battle, Geneva appeared emerging ahead of Bonn as the likely site for the new World Trade Organisation (WTO) due to come into existence next year, GATT diplomats said Friday.

The diplomats were speaking after a meeting that postponed to next Tuesday a formal decision on a recommendation to the WTO's steering preparatory committee (Prepcom) that itself is due to make a final choice next Friday.

"It is looking increasingly as though we will be staying here," said one European envoy to the Geneva-based GATT, the 47-year-old General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade which will be absorbed by the WTO.

"We are almost there," said a Latin American ambassador. "I think consensus is near and it seems fairly certain to me we will be staying in Geneva."

Andras Szepesi of Hungary, chairman of the Prepcom's sub-committee on budget, finance and administration which has to make the recommendation, told Friday's meeting 80 per cent of GATT delegations consulted had made their preference clear.

But, according to diplomats and trade officials, he did not reveal to the closed-door meeting how this broke down in favour of the two cities.

"It is always a problem in GATT to get countries to make difficult decisions," said another ambassador. "The fact that so many have

already said that they want suggests the trend is for the easier choice — not moving."

Only France, already declared as a supporter of Geneva, expressed a preference at the session. Its GATT envoy Jean-Marie Metzger argued that nothing could compensate for the disruption of moving the world trade watchdog structure to Bonn.

Germany, which wants to turn Bonn into an international city when its government moves to Berlin during the later 1990s, has offered attractive living and working conditions to tempt the 124 GATT delegations away from Geneva.

Switzerland, often criticised for its bureaucratic rules and for its people's refusal to approve full integration into the international

community, has countered by pledging better terms for WTO employees and diplomats, and their families.

Behind the scenes, officials of the two have accused each other of unfair play and rough tactics in seeking to win support — although publicly their envoys have insisted it has been a clean contest between friendly countries.

German diplomats declined comment after Friday's meeting, while a smiling Swiss GATT ambassador William Rosier also refused to predict the final outcome after the four-day delay for further consultations between Mr. Szepesi and GATT delegations.

"Sometimes one has to wait for the fruit to be ripe so that it is even nicer," he told reporters with a grin.

Location of the WTO, created under the final act of the seven-year Uruguay round trade negotiations which were signed in Morocco in April, a prize that will bring considerable income — and prestige — to its winner.

The new body, with wider powers, is expected to employ more people than its predecessor and will attract larger diplomatic trade delegations than those accredited to the GATT.

Trade officials said France's Metzger argued Friday that moving away from Geneva could weaken the WTO's working links with the United Nations bodies — i.e. the International Labour Organisation and the CTAD conference on trade and development — site of the Swiss city.

Russian premier savages regions over reforms

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin Friday launched a fierce attack on the country's regional bosses, accusing them of dawdling over economic reform.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, speaking at the end of a special Kremlin meeting of the government to review progress in the first half of the year, said many leaders of the powerful regions had done little to convert arms plants to civilian production.

The government has slashed military orders to save money and persuade the heads of the once powerful defence sector to convert to civilian production.

But many plants have shown little enthusiasm for the complicated and expensive task, preferring instead to mothball their machines or continue churning out weapons while demanding ever larger state subsidies.

"I visited an arms factory in (the far eastern town of) Komsomolsk on Amur and

asked the director why he was still making weapons. He answered: 'We might need them one day,'" said Mr. Chernomyrdin.

"He's right," shouted someone in the audience. "He's right... but what will we do with the end-product? We need to build roads, schools," shouted Mr. Chernomyrdin, his face turning red.

"The budget is not made of elastic," he said. "How much must we suffer before we switch to different kinds of production?"

Turning to the director of an arms plant in the central republic of Bashkortostan, Mr. Chernomyrdin said: "Why is your plant not making engines? It could be making good engines. You're not doing what you're supposed to do."

President Boris Yeltsin last week ordered enterprises maintaining high reserves in case of a war to cut those stocks "to relieve the economy of a non-productive burden."

Mr. Yeltsin cancelled his planned appearance at Friday's session because he had a cold.

Mr. Chernomyrdin's speech will undoubtedly please Western economists, some of whom still suspect the portly premier favours old-style communist subsidies to keep the creaking economy afloat.

Mr. Chernomyrdin was also irritated by the lukewarm reaction to his opening speech in which he said market reforms were on target and there would be no major changes in economic policy.

"The speech was paradoxical. He says prices are going up, production is falling, wages are keeping pace with prices and yet inflation is falling? This cannot be," Nikolai Gonchar, head of the upper house's budget committee, told reporters.

Inside the hall, Khabarovsk governor Viktor Mikhailov said his far eastern region was in crisis.

"People don't take factory closures seriously at this time

of year because they can work on their summer houses," he said.

"If we don't do something urgently to reopen the factories when the workers go back in September I am afraid we could have serious problems," he said.

Textile plants in the central Russian city of Ivanovo, lacking cash for raw materials and wages, were at a virtual standstill Friday, ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Mr. Chernomyrdin acknowledged there were still many problems to be solved but declared himself encouraged by progress in the first half year. Queues and shortages had disappeared, the fall in industrial output had been halted and inflation had been cut.

"We simply can't do this any other way," he said. "Reforms on the whole are going ahead as planned... we cannot allow ourselves the luxury of making major changes in financial, monetary or credit policy."

He said the government's main task was to create a favourable investment climate and to reorganise or liquidate enterprises with no future in their present form.

The most serious problems were posed by the inefficient agricultural sector, nonpayment between enterprises and the unsatisfactory work of the tax authorities, Mr. Chernomyrdin said.

Acting Finance Minister Sergei Dubinin said recently monthly inflation could double to around 10 per cent in August from five per cent last month due to a rise in cash in circulation.

But he said the rise would not prevent Russia meeting a promise of end-1994 monthly inflation of seven to nine per cent.

India to sell big loss-makers

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Two of India's largest loss-making public sector companies are going on sale after being declared sick and are looking for new owners to nurse them back to health.

The first significant move towards privatisation of state-owned companies, the decision to have them off coincided with a call to the public sector Friday by Finance Minister Manmohan Singh to fend for itself.

The Fertiliser Corp. of India and the Hindustan Fertiliser Corp. of India, which together are more than 30 billion rupees (\$1 billion) in the red, have been put on the block, officials said here Saturday.

"Their net worth has been eroded," said a spokesman for the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), a government-appointed agency which oversees the privatisation or revival of public sector companies.

He said the government had been unable to come up

with a scheme to put the two companies back on their feet, prompting the board to put them on sale.

The Industrial Credit and Investment Corp. of India (ICICI), a financial institution, was asked by the BIFR on Friday to scout for prospective new owners to take them over, the spokesman said.

The ICICI would study bids from the private sector and foreign investors willing to infuse fresh capital and technology to turn around the ailing and overstaffed companies, which together have more than 15,000 employees.

"It is now open for interested parties to approach the ICICI," the spokesman told AFP.

The two fertiliser companies, burdened by first-generation plants of outdated technology, turned sick in the face of shortages of inputs such as power and coal, forcing production cutbacks.

An investment of more

than 14 billion rupees (\$466 million) would be required to revive their now-idle plants, which had been running at half their capacity.

Trade unions have vigorously protested government plans to wind up sick factories or privatise the public sector under a three-year-old economic reforms programme putting India on the road to a market economy.

Hundreds of thousands of public sector workers joined an anti-privatisation strike Thursday, hitting production in key industries such as steel and coal.

In the face of union opposition, privatisation moves have so far been restricted to the cautious sale of a portion of the equity in select state-owned firms.

Finance Minister Singh said during a visit Friday to the southern Indian city of Trivandrum that New Delhi would no longer pump funds into the public sector or make investments in new industries.

China unveils first real estate law

BEIJING (R) — China unveiled its first real estate law Saturday, giving authorities the power to crack down on land speculators blamed for fuelling inflation.

The law, consisting of 72 articles, regulates the buying, selling, leasing and development of real estate. Builders will be able to acquire the right to develop a plot of land through auction, bidding or negotiations.

Under the law, a builder will be fined 20 per cent of the value of a plot of state-owned land if it sits idle for a year. A builder's right to develop a piece of land will be revoked if it remains idle for two years.

During the recent real estate boom, too many speculators traded empty plots back and forth for ever-higher prices without ever

using them to build the infrastructure China badly needs.

Officials said they were eager to have foreign developers invest in China.

"We welcome foreign businessmen to invest in infrastructure and real estate development as it will resolve our problem of lack of funds and know-how," Vice Construction Minister Tan Qinglian told reporters.

He denied the law was designed to restrict investment by foreigners, including Hong Kong and Taiwan residents.

"Real estate taxes on foreigners may have some effect on investment willingness but there are reasonable profits to be made. The situation in 1992 and 1993 was abnormal," Mr. Tan said.

Andy Capp



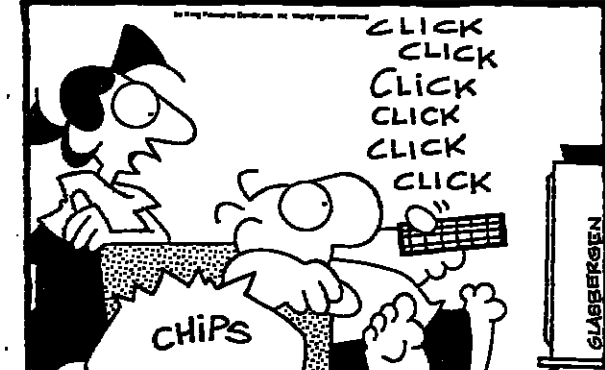
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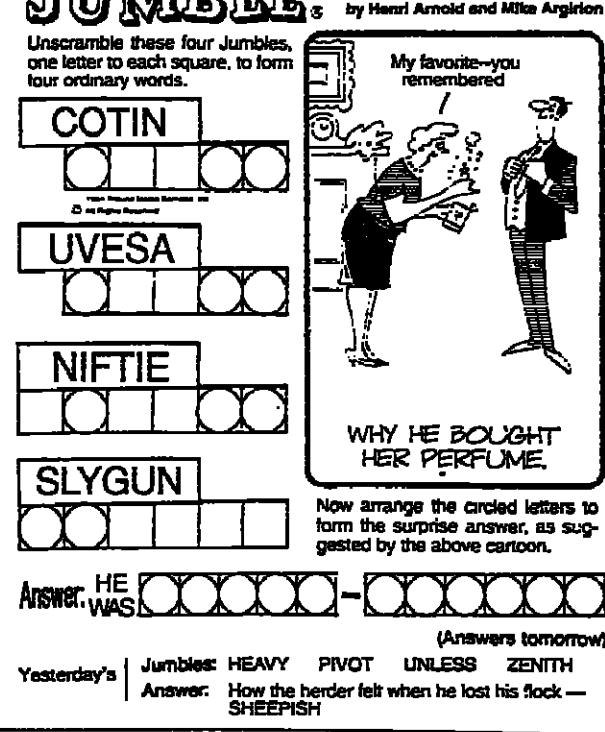
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JULY 17, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A really great day and evening to relax, let down, and enjoy the good life. Only positive things are coming your way today and you might want to plan a little get-away with that special companion.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Follow only accepted rules of handling any problems you may have, whether private or otherwise, and avoid trouble.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A good day to be with influential persons who can help you in your line of endeavour. Take no chances with your health or finances.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A new project you have in mind needs more research before you put it in operation. Allow time to engage in your favourite hobby today.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You may be thinking you are not progressing as you should, but keep plugging and you will gain your goal.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Listen to advice of a family tie who has your best interest at heart. Make long-range plans for the days ahead about completing a project.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good day to visit friends and relatives for mutual enjoyment. Be more precise in handling your personal affairs.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Forget a worrisome affair and delve into something more practical and profitable. Make plans to improve your social life with friends.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good day to study facts and figures so you can advance in career affairs. Strive for increased harmony at home with loved ones.

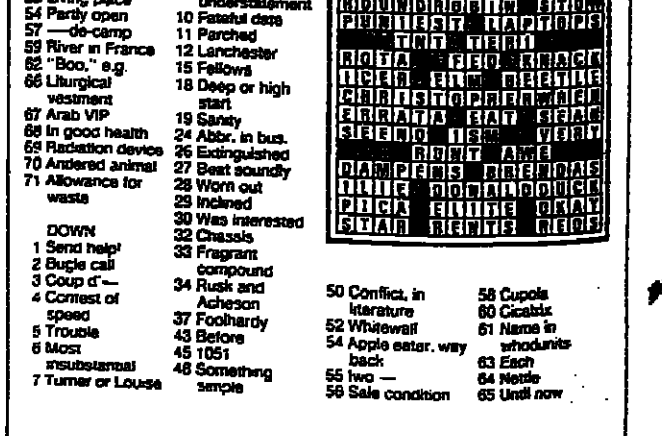
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Contact friends in the afternoon and discuss an important plan you have in mind. Allow time for recreational activities.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is a perfect day for getting out to new activities and perking up your enthusiasm. Relax at home tonight and recharge your energy.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Listening to the suggestions of an expert can be most helpful to you now. Make this a most worthwhile day for you personally.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Follow your hunches early in the day because they are likely to be off target later. Take no risks with your reputation at this time.

THE Daily Crossword



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 16/7/94	New York Close 15/7/94
Sterling Pound	1.5599	1.5618
Deutsche Mark	1.5552	1.5536
Swiss Franc	1.3118	1.3081
French Franc	5.3275	5.3265
Japanese Yen	98.60	97.82
European Currency Unit	1.2300	1.2245

Barocurrency Interest Rates Dates: 15/7/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.31	5.62	5.06	5.62
Sterling Pound	4.81	5.00	5.16	5.93
Deutsche Mark	4.62	4.62	4.68	4.81
Swiss Franc	3.67	4.00	4.06	4.31
French Franc	5.43	5.50	5.62	5.67
Japanese Yen	1.87	1.93	2.06	2.12
European Currency Unit	5.75	5.81	5.94	6.19

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Dates: 16/7/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6490	0.6910
Sterling Pound	1.0737	1.0791
Deutsche Mark	0.4430	0.4452
Swiss Franc	0.5263	0.5289
French Franc	0.1293	0.1299
Japanese Yen	0.7034	0.7069
Dutch Guilder	0.3951	0.3971
Swedish Krona	0.0444	0.0446
Italian Lira	0.0444	0.0446
Belgian Franc	0.0444	0.0446

Other Currencies Dates: 16/7/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.5120	1.8240
Lebanese Lira	0.040760	0.041890
Saudi Riyal	0.1834	0.1842
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3250	2.3750
Qatari Riyal	0.1670	0.1879
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.7700	1.7860
UAE Dirham	0.1570	0.1579
Greek Drachma	0.2755	0.3150
Cypriot Pound	1.3580	1.4620

Report: Credit Lyonnais went on wild spending spree

PARIS (AFP) — The Credit Lyonnais bank, which lost \$1.3 billion last year, made bad and profligate investments, and the state was partly responsible, a parliamentary enquiry has found.

The investigators also implied that they had found signs of a deeper malaise of morals and dirty money in the French economy which required the attention of the government.

The president of the state-owned bank at the time, Jean-Claude Trichet, was chiefly to blame but the state shared responsibility for the debacle.

This was because former economy minister Pierre Bérégovoy and the director of the treasury, Jean-Claude Trichet, had supported the risky strategy, Francois d'Aubert, who presented the report, said.

Mr. Trichet, who was

among several top officials questioned, is now governor of the Bank of France. Bérégovoy became prime minister but committed suicide shortly after the socialist loss of power in March 1993.

The report found that Mr. Haberer had developed a mistaken investment strategy.

This had led to "really excessive investment which was not always in line with a precise appreciation of the risks involved."

The report noted that nothing had been found to cast doubt on the honesty, honour and ethical standards shown by Mr. Haberer.

The president of the national assembly Philippe Seguin, who presided over the commission of enquiry, said that the effects of the mistaken strategy had been magnified by the "wholly inadequate nature" of internal controls.

The report also drew attention to what it termed malfunctions and crazy speculation on the property and financial markets which had developed without any restraint, Mr. Seguin said.

The crisis at the bank had revealed "problems which go far beyond the bank and which require the attention of the state: A decline of moral standards, money of doubtful origin and excessive deregulation."

Treasury officials on the board had not sounded the alarm and had shown a tendency to be too deferential towards Mr. Haberer, a former director of the treasury.

Overall the events demonstrated the contradictions of state involvement as a major shareholder in business.

Observers noted that the background of problems within the bank dated to the period in office of a socialist administration. The new cen-

tre-right government has listed the bank for privatisation.

Mr. Haberer, whose management is remembered through an advertisement stressing that Credit Lyonnais knew how to say "Yes", was replaced in November and was subsequently sacked by the conservative government from another top banking post.

He had launched the bank on a massive expansion programme mirroring the German model of investment in industry. The bank had stakes in 1,100 companies in 1992, but his successor Jean Peyrelevade has begun to cut back severely.

Doubtful property assets have been put into a separate company for which the state has provided guarantees of 18.4 billion francs (\$3.5 billion).

The state holds 55 per cent of the bank and shareholders have injected capital of 4.9 billion francs to rescue the bank from its losses. The loss in 1993 was 6.9 billion francs.

Mr. Peyrelevade has begun to sell industrial assets as part of a plan to raise 35 billion francs (\$6.6 billion).

Last week, the bank announced that it was selling its holding of 64.6 per cent in the FNAC electronic goods company to the Pinguet retail group for 1.86 billion francs (\$360 million).

The bank also became involved in a messy and litigious takeover of the U.S. MGM-U.A. film studios which soaked up more than \$2 billion.

The bank is currently involved in complicated moves to protect 1.2 billion francs (\$230 million) owed by French tycoon and socialist politician Bernard Tapie.

But it is itself the target of legal action in Switzerland in connection with the bankruptcy of the Sasea company with debts of about five billion Swiss francs (\$3 billion).

Bahrain and Oman to link stock markets soon — official

ABU DHABI (R) — Oman is to list Bahraini companies on its stock market soon, the director of the Muscat exchange has said.

Mahmoud Jarwani also said he expects a surge in activity on its primary market will yield more opportunities for foreigners.

Oman's council of ministers is expected to decide within weeks to list shares of two Bahraini companies on its domestic exchange, he told Reuters.

"We started getting applications for cross-listing of companies based in Bahrain. The (stock exchange) board of directors recommended to accept the listing," he said in a telephone interview from Muscat. "I expect final approval in the next few weeks."

Bahrain and Oman signed an agreement in 1992 to cross-list shares before the end of this year in the first such deal between Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

Citizens of the GCC, which also includes Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait, and other foreigners are permitted to trade to a limited extent in Bahrain and Oman. Other exchanges in the region allow trading only by their own nationals.

Mr. Jarwani said he expected activity on the primary market in Oman to double this year with new companies trying to raise foreign and local capital for projects in utilities and sewage.

He said his approval of an application for an Omani company, Reem Batteries, to raise capital for expansion was also a taste of things to come.

"We have a very strong primary market this year. I expect 10 new companies in total this year, and four have applied to raise capital for expansion plans," he said.

"I expect we will need 200 to 250 million riyals (\$50-\$60 million) in new capital. Last year it was around 50 million riyals (\$10 million)," he added.

The four firms seeking capital for expansion will require about 30 million riyals (\$6 million), he said.

Mr. Jarwani said the timing was right because bank interest rates and real estate investment returns are low.

"It can be raised domestically. There is 1.2 billion riyals (\$3.2 billion) available for investment in banks," he said.

Oman's market lists about 93 companies capitalised at 623.2 million (\$1.6 billion). Annual turnover is about \$60 million.

Mr. Jarwani said he expected Oman to start listing Sunday a joint investment fund with the UAE. He said new corporate bond issues were expected to be listed before the end of the year.

U.S. consumer borrowing soars

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) has said borrowing rose for the 14th straight month with consumer credit climbing \$10.4 billion in May, a trend troubling some experts.

"There are worrisome numbers. Consumers really are piling on debt at a rapid rate," Sandra Shaber of DRI-McGraw-Hill, a Lexington, Massachusetts, forecasting company said.

May's increase — based on a revised system to provide more accurate information — was 15.1 per cent at an annual rate over April and included a 16 per cent jump in credit card borrowing.

May credit card borrowing climbed \$4.1 billion to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$308.4 billion. Card debt rose \$5.2 billion in April.

Consumer spending accounts for nearly two-thirds of the U.S. economic activity. Consumer credit includes all household debt except home equity loans and

mortgages.

The revised figures show slightly less strength in 1992 and more rapid borrowing in 1993 and early 1994. Total outstanding installment credit has been raised by about \$8 billion as of March due to the revisions.

A month ago the Fed said consumer credit rose \$8.9 billion in April, using calculations based on the old system. The new calculations

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New Alitalia plan cuts pain of job losses

ROME (AFP) — Management and unions of the Alitalia airline have agreed on a restructuring plan which reduces the number of jobs to be shed from 4,500 to 1,570, union sources have said.

The company announced that an agreement had been reached and union sources said that under the plan flight crew were to reduce costs by 100 billion lire (\$62.5 million) instead of by 170 billion lire as had been sought by the management.

The reduction would be achieved through productivity and through a reduction of pay, the union sources said.

The number of ground staff would be reduced by 1,570 people. Management had planned to shed 4,500 jobs.

The jobs would be lost without redundancy, the union sources said. Alitalia employs about 21,000 people.

Last year the airline lost 345.6 billion lire (\$220 million). In 1992 it had lost 17.6 billion lire. Company President Renato Rivero said on June 20 that he expected the losses to be worse in 1994.

Romario to do specialist job on Italy

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Pele believes Romario, Jorginho, Dunga and Marcio Santos can lead Brazil to their fourth World Cup on Sunday.

"They are key players and, hopefully, can lead Brazil to the World Cup," the 1970s idol said here Friday.

"Romario is a specialist player. Whenever he gets the ball he's a very dangerous player. He can make space for the other forwards or score himself," said the man who inspired Brazil to their third World Cup in 1970.

"Although he agreed Bebeto was important, Pele thought right-back Jorginho and central defender Marcio Santos could play a more important role in Sunday's final."

"Marcio Santos was the third-choice when this tournament started but now he is the best central defender in the world," he said.

"Dunga is the heart of Brazil. He is the man every national team should have and Jorginho makes the team think. He starts a lot of good moves down the right flank."

"Brazil can be thankful their injuries came in their strongest department on the field — central defence."

"Brazil had about eight central defenders before the event, and all would not have looked out of place in a world championship winning team."

"To lose both centre backs, Ricardo Rocha and Ricardo Gomes, would almost certainly have been a major blow to any other team."

But replacements Aldair and Marcio Santos have ensured none of Brazil's three goals conceded in six matches have come through central defence.

Paris Saint Germain's Ricardo Gomes was ruled out of the World Cup with a torn

hamstring following their friendly match against El Salvador in Fresno, California on June 12.

Ricardo Rocha hurt his groin during the first match against Russia June 20 and was substituted by Aldair 22 minutes before the end. Since then Marcio Santos, who plays for French club Bordeaux, and AS Roma's Aldair have performed superbly.

Thankfully, coach Carlos Alberto Parreira had no other serious injuries. An injury in his workmanlike midfield — at least workmanlike by Brazilian standards — could have been disastrous as they do not have the strength in depth to cover.

Brazil started well with five goals against Russia and Cameroon although a 1-1 draw with Sweden and Russia's subsequent six-goal thrashing of Cameroon put Brazil's performances into perspective.

They had Leonardo, their enterprising left-back, sent off and banned for the rest of the tournament for smashing his elbow into Tab Ramos face in the 1-0 second-round win over the United States.

And the two goals they conceded the Netherlands in the quarterfinals again raised doubts.

But Branco, whose 30-metre free-kick clinched that 3-2 win over the Dutch, has proved a more than satisfactory replacement for Leonardo.

And the Romario-Bebeto partnership has looked better and better.

Zinho probes intelligently behind the front-runners but with Rai a pale shadow of the man who led Sao Paulo to the 1992 Intercontinental Cup, the attacking thrust provided by Dunga and Mazinho is steady but predictable.

Team spirit may have been helped as eight of the 11 probable starters against Italy play for European clubs.

Getting away from the pressure of being a footballer in Brazil may prove to have been crucial preparation, according to team press liaison officer John Polis.

"Team spirit is good because they did not have to suffer the weight of expectation heaped on them by the Brazilian press before the event," said Polis.

Europeanisation of the team has been a major criticism of Parreira. But he disagrees they have adopted a style in character with the old continent.

He said in Europe they play long balls, whereas Brazil play short passes. He added Europeans tend to mark man-for-man whereas Brazil use a zonal system.

"The only European trait we use is defensive discipline when we do not have the ball. South American sides in general are weaker than in Europe when they don't have possession," Parreira said.

The only selection doubt for Sunday's final is whether Mazinho keeps his place ahead of skipper Rai, who was kept out of the starting lineup by Mazinho from the start of the knockout stages.

Mazinho, more of a workhorse than the creative Rai, was taken off after the first half of their semifinal against Sweden. Rai replaced him and will hope he did enough for a recall.

"It's the coach who picks the side but I hope I play some of the match. We are determined to get revenge for losing in the 1982 final," he said.

Rai's elder brother Socrates was in the side that lost 3-2 to Italy in Spain when they only needed a draw to reach the semifinals.



Romario

Donadoni injury gives Sacchi another headache

PASADENA (R) — World Cup finalists Italy, sweating over the fitness of star striker Roberto Baggio, were dealt another blow when they learned experienced midfielder Roberto Donadoni had an injury problem.

"Roberto (Donadoni) felt a pain in his left hamstring a few hours after the match (on Wednesday) and it got worse during the flight yesterday," said team doctor Andrea Ferretti Friday.

"It should be the kind of injury that clears up within 24 hours but we are obviously keeping a very close eye on him."

Ferretti said there was little change in the condition of Baggio, who also has a hamstring problem, and is rated only 50-50 to play in Sunday's final. Both Donadoni and Baggio were ordered to sit out training Friday.

Baggio has steered triple champions Italy to the finals with five goals in the past three games and is determined to play.

"I just haven't allowed myself to think about missing the game," an Italian team spokesman quoted Baggio, who did not appear at a breakfast time press conference, as saying.

"I don't feel any pain when I walk but there is a sharp sensation when I make quick movements."

Coach Arrigo Sacchi refused to discuss who could replace Baggio.

Parma attacker Gianfranco Zola is available again after suspension while Giuseppe Signori, leading scorer in Italian soccer for the past two seasons, could be promoted after starting the last two games on the bench.

Sacchi also has problems in defence where both Mauro Tassotti and Alessandro Costacurta are suspended.

Roberto Mucci has taken over the right back spot from Tassotti in this World Cup but the loss of Costacurta, one of the Italian stars of the tournament, is a serious one.

Sacchi has virtually ruled out recalling veteran captain Franco Baresi who has just resumed training after keyhole surgery to repair



Roberto Baggio

damaged knee cartilage. "As things stand today I would say that Baresi's chances are very remote," Sacchi said. Parma's Luigi Apolloni, who has won just three caps, is the likely deputy for Costacurta.

Italy have triumphed over adversity throughout the tournament, scoring vital wins over Norway and Nigeria when down to 10 men and Sacchi hopes this spirit can compensate for any absences.

"I am very happy to coach a group of excellent professionals who have shown such character," he said. "Baggio is a very great player and if he were unavailable then we would lose something. It would be up to the rest of the team to produce a little bit extra to make good the loss."

"With this squad anything is possible and we have our sights fixed on the Cup."

Sacchi was associated with thrilling attacking soccer when he coached Milan to the European Cup in 1989 and 1990 but his Italian team have failed to scale such heights with their play.

"I thought we played very good soccer in the first half of the semifinal with Bulgaria," Sacchi said when questioned on his team's performances.

"It would have been very difficult for my Milan team to play as it did in these conditions, in this heat... it's very hard to put pressure on opponents and have good movement off the ball here."

Sacchi did not agree that most neutrals in Pasadena's Rose Bowl stadium Sunday would be rooting for Brazil, a team which has not matched the skills of its illustrious predecessors but has been better to watch than Italy.

"I think that the fans will support the team which produces the best soccer on the day," he said.

Stockholm wins reception, Goteborg fumes

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Sweden's battle for the World Cup trophy may be over, but plans for the team's return home have heated up a rivalry between cities claiming to be the country's soccer capital.

The Swedish national team, which reached the semifinals in its best showing in years, is scheduled to return Monday to a reception in Stockholm. But more than 20,000 soccer fans have signed a petition calling for the celebration to be moved to the western coastal city of

Goteborg, about 480 kilometres from Stockholm.

Eight of the 22 players on the national squad live in Goteborg. Many play for the city's most famous soccer club IFK Goteborg, while five others have previously played for Goteborg teams.

"Goteborg can truly be called Sweden's soccer capital," said a letter Thursday signed by Goteborg's top city and soccer officials.

The Goteborgs-Posten newspaper Friday was more blunt: "Why are they returning to Stockholm? The arguments are as thin as prison soap."

As Sweden's second largest city, Goteborg lives in the shadow of the capital, often complaining that Stockholm steals the limelight and ignores all events — from sports to politics — elsewhere.

Among players associated with Goteborg is veteran goal keeper Thomas Ravelli, who has made a record 116 appearances for the national side.

Local politicians and Gunnar Larsson, chairman of IFK Goteborg, supported the appeal. "Where would it be more appropriate?" Larsson told the Goteborgs-Posten.

The complaints are falling on deaf ears. The national soccer federation said Thursday it will not change its plans, and national media commented Friday that thousands of fans will be disappointed.

"The national team has made sporting history. This is a feat of national interest and therefore it is appropriate that the celebrations are conducted in the Swedish capital," Michael Salzer of the federation said.

Resigning its loss of the World Cup reception, Goteborg is setting its sights on IFK Goteborg's matches this fall in the European championship league.

Sweden which was to play Bulgaria in the third-place game Saturday, whatever the result, it will be Sweden's best World Cup placing since finishing runner-up 1958 after Brazil.

The national team arrives Monday afternoon to Stockholm's Arlanda international airport. The team will then drive in convertibles through downtown Stockholm to a park where thousands of fans are expected to cheer them.

Hungarian to referee final

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Sándor Puhl of Hungary, who missed Mauro Tassotti breaking Luis Enrique's nose with his elbow, will referee the World Cup final between Brazil and Italy.

Puhl, 39, on Thursday, booked two Spaniards in the Spain-Italy quarterfinal but missed the incident in which blood streamed down Enrique's face after his nose was broken.

Tassotti was later suspended for eight matches by FIFA after they had examined video evidence to sanction an off-the-ball incident for the first time.

"We could not hold against Mr. Puhl an incident that happened behind his back," FIFA Assistant Secretary Michel Zen-Ruffinen said Friday.

Puhl also refereed the Brazil-Sweden first-round game when he showed Brazilian defender Aldair a yellow card, and Norway-Mexico when he booked a Mexican.

Puhl is the first European to referee the World Cup final since 1978. A Brazilian handled the 1982 and 1986 matches and a Mexican was in charge in 1990 when a player was sent off for the first time.

Row flares over Russian flop

MOSCOW (R) — The row over Russia's poor performance in the World Cup flared again Saturday when assistant team coach Yuri Semin accused many players of letting the side down.

Semin — speaking to Sport Express newspaper — was particularly critical of Benfica forward Sergei Yuran, who he said had given up after being dropped following a poor performance in the first game.

The fiery Yuran was kicked out of the squad after the first round games following a reportedly heated row with coach Pavel Sadryin.

Russia, deprived before the tournament began of several stars by a player mutiny against Sadryin, lost 2-0 to Brazil and 3-1 to Sweden before regaining some pride in a 6-1 victory over Cameroon.

Semin said the players had split into different camps

from the start, wrecking any attempts to instill a team spirit.

"Our team could not unite. Personal ambitions prevailed. The players objected to each other, the trainers, to the whole world. And as a result they looked as though they objected to soccer," said Semin.

The Russian substitutes were so envious of those on the pitch against Sweden that only one of the 11 players on the bench cheered when Russia took an early 1-0 lead, Semin said.

The same thing happened when Oleg Salenko scored a World Cup record five goals against Cameroon.

Semin acknowledged it had been a mistake to rely so much on Yuran — who only scored a handful of goals for Benfica last season — in the first game against Brazil.

"If a person cannot create a single worthwhile chance over 90 minutes he is not worth a penny. Even if the opponents are Brazil," Semin said.

Yuran, still in the process of arranging a transfer to English premier division side Arsenal, virtually stopped training after he realised he would be dropped.

"You could say he gave up," said Semin.

The Russian team also fined defender Sergei Gorukovich and striker Dmitry Radchenko \$5,000 each for breaking team rules, but gave no further details.

Semin said he had no idea whether Sadryin would resign. The manager announced before the World Cup he would step down if the team performed poorly.

The daily Izvestia newspaper, tongue firmly in cheek, said the team was lucky dictator Josef Stalin was not still in power.

Izvestia predicted Sadryin would have disappeared immediately — Russian shorthand for a summary execution — while Yuran, Radchenko and Gorukovich would be banned for life.

Champions Spartak Moscow, who provided most of the national team players, would be kicked out of the premier division.

"Russian Soccer Federation chairman Vyacheslav Kolosov would be sacked, kicked out of the Communist Party, struck from the list of those allowed to eat in Kremlin cafeteria and forbidden to live in Moscow," the paper said.

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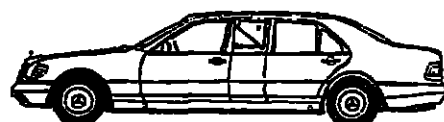
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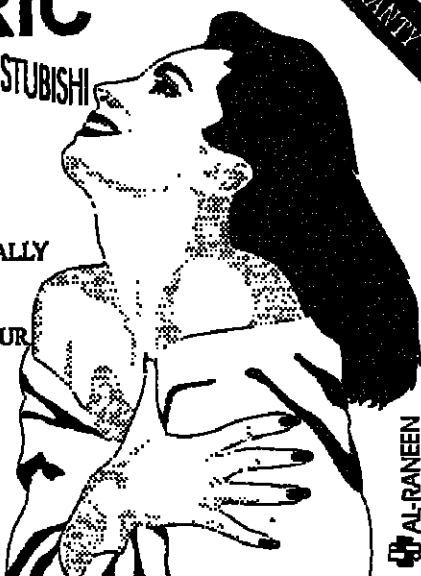
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Japan prepares for 2002 World Cup by building 15 stadiums

PASADENA (R) — Japan, bidding to host the World Cup in the year 2002, would build 15 all-seater stadiums if it won the right to stage the event, the chairman of the bidding committee said Friday.

"We strongly wish to host the first World Cup ever to be held in Asia at the turn of the century and we will make an all-out effort to provide the stage for the competition," Takashi Ishihara, told a news conference.

"To upgrade facilities 15 new, world-class football stadiums with capacities of between 50,000-70,000 are due to be completed by the year 2000 in 15 cities in Japan," he said.

At this early stage in the bidding, Japan's only serious rival appears to be South Korea. The two countries are the only Asian nations to have staged the summer Olympic Games — Tokyo held them in 1964 and Seoul in 1988.

FIFA will decide the host nation for the 2002 World Cup in two years' time.

The Japanese bid is being supported by Bobby Charlton, a member of the England team that won the World Cup in 1966.

He said because France was staging the World Cup in 1998 and because the next finals could not be staged back in Europe he was convinced the 2002 finals should be held in Japan.

"I am dedicated to the idea that the finals should not be monopolised by Europe and South America," he said. "It is a world game as teams from Africa and Asia have proved."

"As far as Japan is concerned, I have never seen the game grow so quickly anywhere in the world. Young people in Japan have taken to the game in such a way — it's frightening."

Japan is basing its bid on the success of the two-year-old professional J-League,

which has been playing to full stadiums around the country. It also points to the 1964 Olympics and the 1991 World Athletics Championships as proof it can handle major events.

Japan has staged minor FIFA tournaments in the past.

The lack of a football culture in a land where baseball, golf and sumo wrestling have traditionally dominated is not seen as a set-back.

Charlton said: "The government is backing football 100 per cent in Japan as a very clean, cheap and safe game to play. The United States has no football culture as such either, but people see it as their duty to support major events such as the World Cup and this World Cup has been a resounding success."

"Japanese people would feel honour-bound to support the World Cup in the same way and I am sure the stadiums would be 100 per cent full for all the matches."

Rominger becomes latest Tour de France victim

ALBI, France (AP) — Miguel Indurain received a special 30th birthday present Saturday as the Tour de France rider billed as his toughest challenger, Tony Rominger, quit the race.

Barely able to keep up with the pack, the Swiss cyclist finally succumbed to a "severe diarrhoea" that had left him weak and dehydrated, team doctor Benjamin Fernandez said.

Rominger got off his bike about 40 kilometres from the end of the 13th stage, from Bagneres de Bigorre to Albi. Bjørne Riss of Denmark, fifth in the tour last year, won the stage on a late breakaway. The route covered a fairly flat 223 kilometres after two tough stages in the Pyrenees.

Indurain celebrated his 30th birthday in the leader's yellow jersey he has become accustomed to wearing in three tour victories. He kept it again Saturday, maintaining his overall lead though he came in nine seconds behind Riss in the pack.

Virtually all the standings remained unchanged, with everyone except Indurain moving up one place due to Rominger dropping out.

Rominger had thought he was suffering from an intestinal virus since earlier in the week and hoped the stage would not be too fast, to allow him some time for recovery.

He never could get in the race. His Mapei teammates tried to lead him back when he was flagging, but Rominger finally spoke with his team director and got off his bike.

Rominger became the latest victim of the powerful Spaniard, who has rolled over further ahead in time trials and mountain climbs as his challengers falter or drop out, one by one.

Three-time champion Greg Lemond of the United States went by the sixth stage. Britain's Chris Boardman, prologue winner and early leader, quit before the mountains.

Dutch doubles team wins, cuts U.S. lead to 2-1

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Dutchman Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis fought back to defeat Richey Reneberg and Jared Palmer Saturday and give the Netherlands its first point in their Davis Cup quarterfinal against the United States.

The marathon 2-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-3, 6-7 (2-7), 6-2 battle lasted almost 3 1/2 hours. Despite the loss, the United States still holds a 2-1 lead in this best-of-5 tie with the two reverse singles matches to be played Sunday.

The Dutch pair initially looked lackluster and demoralised in a lightning-quick 24-minute first set. But games went with serve until the sixth game when luck gave the Americans their first break.

Eltingh saved one break point, but on the second a miss-hit backhand return from Reneberg ballooned over Haarhuis at the net to put the Americans up 4-2.



Richey Reneberg

With Haarhuis serving to save the set at 5-2, a wild volley from Eltingh gave the Americans set point, which Palmer converted at the first attempt with a topspin lob.

With many intricate exchanges of volleys at the net and no break points, the

second set was much closer-fought and games went with serve until 6-6.

In the tiebreak, the Americans held a 5-2 lead after Haarhuis double-faulted and missed a backhand volley to lose both his service points. But the Dutch fought back and won four consecutive points, including both Palmer services, and Haarhuis converted the second Dutch set point at 7-6 with a punch volley.

It was the Americans' turn to falter in the third set as Reneberg let go a Haarhuis return on break point in the fourth game to trail 3-1. Reneberg also had to save a set point in his next service game at 3-5.

In Cannes, France, Jan Apell and Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden easily beat France's Olivier Delaitre and Jean-Philippe Fleurian, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 Saturday to give the Swedes a 2-1 lead in the Davis Cup quarterfinal.

FIFA selects World Cup fantasy team

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — The devastating strike force of Italy's Roberto Baggio, Brazil's Romario and Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov head what FIFA describe as their dream team of the World Cup.

The all-star team, selected by the FIFA technical committee has seven European players and four South Americans — all Brazilians. Josef Venglos, the manager of Slovakia and chairman of the technical committee, defended the domination of European players.

"Look at the semifinals. Three European and only one South American team," said Venglos. "And the quarterfinals had seven European teams."

Former England international Sir Bobby Charlton said the European players all fully justified their place in

the team. He had special praise for Baggio.

"He showed great character after all the criticism he got at the start of the tournament from the Italian press. When the opportunities arose he took his chances and instead of being a laughing stock Italy are now in the final. Baggio is responsible," said Sir Bobby, who helped England beat Germany to win the World Cup final in 1966.

Former Brazilian star Pele said the biggest surprise in the team was the inclusion of Marcio Santos. "Before the tournament no one even considered him for the Brazilian team. He only got in because Carlos Mozer was ill and Ricardo Gomes was injured. He has gone from third choice to being the best in the world," said Pele. He was quick to defend the

selection of Brazilian captain. "He may not be a great thinker or a play maker but he is the heart of the Brazilian team. He is the one who gets the ball back if someone loses it," said Pele.

One surprise in the FIFA line-up was the absence of any player of the defending champions Germany. Despite being knocked out in the quarterfinals by Bulgaria, striker Jurgen Klinsmann had been one of the stars of the World Cup.

But despite one of the most star-studded teams of all-times FIFA's panel admitted

the side would never take the field.

Venglos said they had taken no account of where players come from and had picked the outstanding individuals in a 3-4-3 formation that no team in the tournament employed.

"Frankly we accept that as a team they might not be able to play a match," Venglos said.

Former Scottish manager Andy Roxburgh, a member of the committee, said afterwards that with all the egos involved, the team would need a psychologist, rather

Hagi to undergo surgery

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Star Romanian midfielder Gheorghe Hagi will undergo surgery on his left knee.

Team doctor Pompiliu Popescu told the daily Evenimentul Zilei that the 29-year Hagi, known as the "Maradona of the Carpathians" will be operated on in Brescia, Italy, where he plays, after a short vacation in his home city Constanta and the capital Bucharest.

"Hagi's knee was banded in every match," Popescu said. "By the end (when Romania bowed out in

the quarterfinals to Sweden) it was torture and we had to put ice on his knee after each match."

In January, Hagi had an operation for a cyst on the same knee, but it flared during the World Cup.

Following his performance in the World Cup, Hagi is being courted by Barcelona and Tottenham Hotspur. He was being quoted in the Romanian press as saying he prefers to play in Spain where he made his debut on foreign soil with Real Madrid in 1990.

GOREN BRIDGE

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ J53 ♣ KJ7 ♣ Q ♠ J7642
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A K 7102 ♠ A8652 ♠ A972
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass 1 ♣ Pass Pass
2 ♣ 2 ♣ ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A Q1082 ♠ A Q J ♠ A Q4
What is your opening bid?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A94 ♠ K J92 ♠ 9742 ♠ K4
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ 1 ♣ ?
What action do you take?

Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A Q1072 ♠ K8 ♠ 1092 ♠ A K6
What is your opening bid?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K J105 ♠ A K73 ♠ K Q5 ♠ J82
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Pass Pass ?
What action do you take?
Look for answers on Monday.

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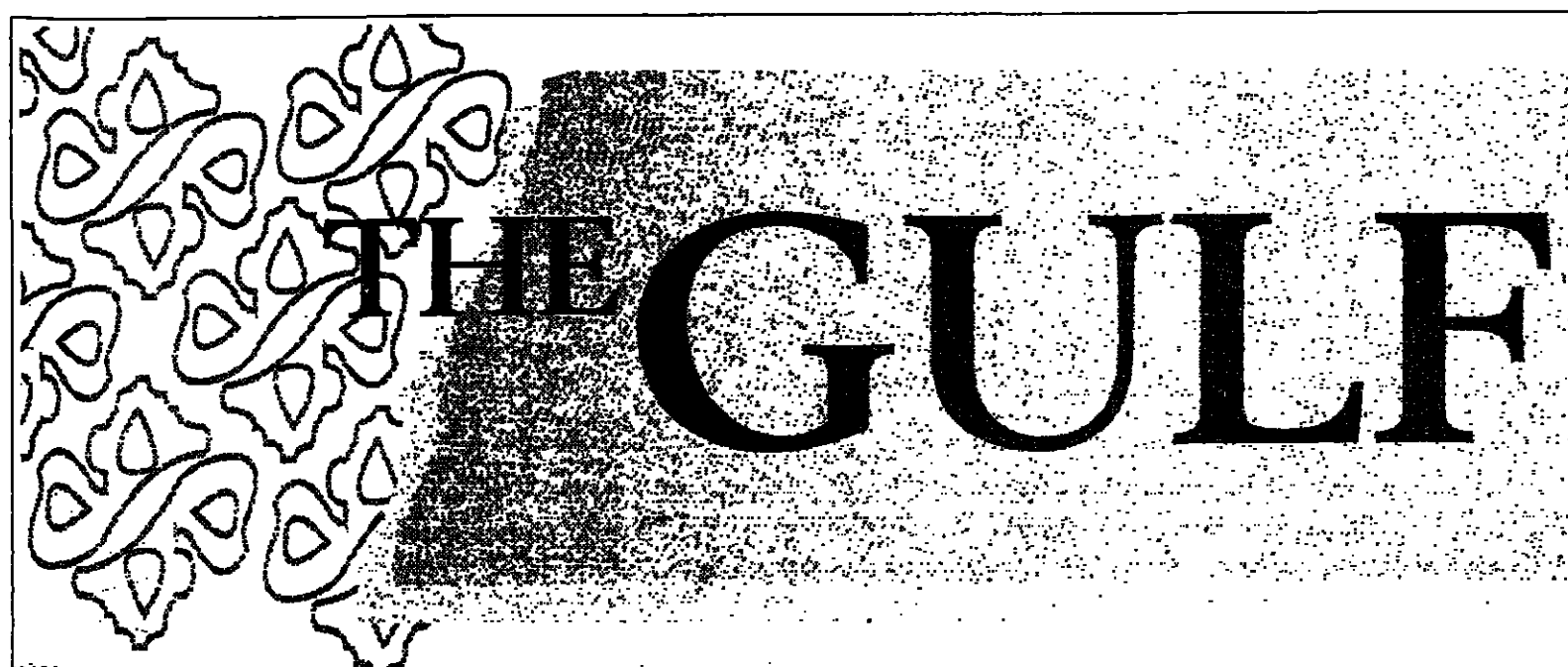
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